

THE TIMES
1785-1985

Tomorrow

Watch this space
The Times Profile of
General Abrahams, 'Star Wars' chief

Holy writ
James Fenton reviews
Anthony Burgess's novel
of early Christianity

Chain, set and match
Can Britain out pedal
Europe in the
Tour of Italy?

Allies to enemies
Ronald Butti on the end
of the wartime coalition

Portfolio

There is £4,000 to be won in
The Times Portfolio competition
today - double the usual
amount because no-one
won yesterday. Portfolio list,
page 24; how to play, Information
Service, back page.
The weekly prize on Saturday
will be £40,000. The usual
£20,000 is doubled because
there was no winner last week.

Jobless 'to lose £5 aid a week'

Jobless people aged up to 26
will be forced on to a new lower
rate of supplementary benefit,
losing at least £5 a week, as part
of the Government's social
security review, Mr Gordon
Brown, Labour MP for
Fife, said yesterday.

Craxi boosted in Italian poll

The failure of the Communist
challenge in Italy's local elections
brought relief to the five
parties in the Craxi coalition.
Between them, the five
achieved 58.2 per cent of the
vote.

Jobs blackspot

The West Midlands, has the
nation's highest long-term
less rate, with nearly half
the region's unemployed without
work for 12 months.

Cat's-eye death

A man was killed yesterday
when he was struck by the
mounting for a Cat's-eye, which
smashed through the wind-
screen of a car on the M1 in
Bedfordshire.

Pole ousted

A hardline Marxist and former
security chief was dropped from
Poland's ruling Politburo in
what is seen as the final
reckoning for the murder of a
pro-Solidarity priest.

Asda go-ahead

The proposed £600 million
merger between Associated
Dairies Group (Asda) and MFI
Furniture Group will not be
referred to the Monopolies and
Mergers Commission.

New foetus test

A three-year study is to be
launched into the safety of a
new technique which should
greatly improve the detection of
foetal abnormalities.

ENIGMA

This week there is another
chance to crack the Enigma
code. The first prize: two return
tickets to Bangkok, plus £1,000.
Today's clue is in the back page
Information Service.

Leader page 15
Letters: On Bradford fire, from
Mr R. T. D. Wilmut, and Mr J.
Fairley; Tory failings, from Mr
R. Saunders, and Mr H. M.
McDonald.

Leading articles: Mr Pym's
group; Industry and new tech-
nology; Austria.
Features, pages 12-14
Dons getting it wrong; the Lords
show their teeth; Miles King-
don's feudal fogs; Spectrum:
Will Africa always go hungry?
Wednesday page: BT's smart
SC.

Special Report, pages 18-20.
Austria.
Obituary, page 16
Mr Terkel Terkelson, Lady
Katharine Seymour.
Classified, pages 28-33.
Secretarial, Property.

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Arts 16-20 | Science 16
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Diary 14 | Weather 36
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Pym's 'loyal' Tories attack Thatcher's economic failings

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government was yesterday accused by Mr Francis Pym of giving round after round of ammunition to its political opponents. He said it was in danger of being sunk by its own shells.

In his first speech since his unveiling as the leader of the new grouping of Conservative MPs, Conservative Centre-Forward, Mr Pym urged the Government to modify its policies and attitudes in response to mounting evidence that its policies were not working.

Mr Pym, who was speaking in Oxford to the University Law Society, condemned the Government for neither achieving its economic objectives nor fully examining alternatives.

Unemployment has increased every year we have been in office, it is still increasing, and is now nearly three times higher than when we came to power," he said.

Growth in the economy could not credibly be portrayed as a significant major and sustained recovery. "It is hard to argue that we have done much more than get back to where we started, and that was hardly satisfactory," the manufacturing decline was deeply worrying.

Mr Pym's speech was seen and approved by prominent members of the pressure group, which was launched on Sunday with about 30 members.

His words were therefore studied with interest last night, both by the Ministers he hopes to persuade and by potential sympathizers, as the group's first collective utterance.

In seeking recruits over past months Mr Pym has assured his friends that there would be no



Looks like Mr Pym is trying to kick the ball into his own goal...

disloyalty to the leadership, and his speech began with assertions of loyalty not explicitly to the present government but to the Conservative Party and to "the traditional values of Conservatism".

He then marked out the "large areas of common ground" between his group and his former colleagues in the Government. They agreed that the principal immediate enemy was inflation. They would continue to support privatization and reform of trade union law. But his discussion of the Government's economic failings could hardly have been blunter.

"I admire fixity of purpose. But there comes a point when intellectual certainty becomes damaging if it flies in the face of the evidence," he said.

To avoid the charge of being too personal, Mr Pym said: "The party rightly admires Margaret Thatcher for her courage and her determination."

Among those who were said to have refused were Mr Mark Carls, Warrington South; Lord Cranborne, Dorset South; Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Birmingham Selly Oak; Mr Tony Baldry, Banbury; and Sir Anthony Clow, Cambridge-shire South West.

One of the group's leaders said last night that before the launch they had 32 definite messages of support; one had since had second thoughts, and others had joined yesterday. Another leading member said they had received 20 further applications yesterday.

But the failure to publish a list is being refused invitations to join.

Test of speech, page 4
Leading article, letters, page 15

NUM executive vote to dismiss moderate

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Union of Mineworkers was plunged into a new political crisis yesterday when its leaders voted to dismiss Mr Roy Lynk, moderate leader of the "dissenting" Nottinghamshire miners.

The 109 vote to oust the acting secretary of Britain's second biggest coalfield was taken as a sign of the "dissenting" Nottinghamshire miners' rejection of the union's policy of "overwhelmingly" to secede from the union rather than accept the increased authority of Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, and his national executive.

Mr Lynk said last night that he would fight his dismissal, insisting: "Whatever happens to me, somebody else will sit in my place. You cannot by a series of eliminations get rid of 30,000 Nottingham miners. That's not on. Scargill can't do it. He has a tiger by the tail and he doesn't know how to let go of it."

Mr Scargill was not present at yesterday's meeting of national leaders, which was chaired by Mr Michael McGahey, the vice-president.

The executive decision takes the form of a recommendation to the national conference in six weeks' time. Only a simple majority of the 120 delegates is required to confirm it, and the militants are confident of getting the recommendation through.

If that happens Mr Lynk, aged 47, will be suspended and given three months' notice to

Philips end UK washing machine production

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Europe's troubled domestic appliance industry received another blow yesterday with an announcement by the Dutch-based Philips company that it was closing its only factory in Britain at the cost of 550 jobs.

The plant, which also makes tumble dryers, is located near Halifax and is to close during the next 12 months. Philips said it recognized the impact the closure would have on the town and pledged to identify other job opportunities in the area.

The loss-making plant has been under scrutiny by Philips for at least two years and is being closed because it is too small. In future, Philips appliances sold in Britain will be imported from existing larger factories in France, West Germany and Italy.

A company statement said: "It is well known that there is considerable over-capacity in the major domestic appliance industry in Europe, including Britain. This has resulted in an extremely competitive situation and it is clear that production must be achieved in large manufacturing units where the required economies of scale can be gained."

Philips declined to reveal the scale of the losses at the Halifax operation, which was established in 1971 and is Philips' only white goods unit in Britain.

Philips, and its rival Siemens-Bosch of West Germany, each hold about 12 per cent of the total European domestic appliance market. Philips ranks at least sixth in the automatic washing machine market behind Hotpoint, Hoover, Zanussi, Servis and Creda, which between them hold about 78 per cent of sales.

Considerable over-capacity is the cause of much of the European industry's problems.

Photograph, page 7
Leading article, page 15
Special Report, pages 18-20

Summit is still in doubt

Vienna - After more than six hours of talks between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State in the Soviet Embassy in Vienna, a proposed summit between Mr Gorbachev and President Reagan this Autumn is still unsettled (Richard Bassett writes).

Despite expectations that this would be the main issue during the talks, Mr Shultz said in front of the embassy only that

the talks had been useful. The talks, he said, had involved disarmament, especially the Geneva negotiations, and problems of human rights.

A spokesman for the Soviet Embassy grimly said that Mr Gromyko had made it clear that human rights in the Soviet Union were the sole concern of the Kremlin.

Photograph, page 7
Leading article, page 15
Special Report, pages 18-20

Pope castigates loose sexual morals

By Our Foreign Staff

On the last day of his dramatic visit to the Netherlands, the Pope yesterday reserved for his meeting with young Dutch Catholics his most devastating strictures on lax sexual morals and on the vices of the consumer society.

He delivered two stern lectures on sexual morals, declaring that Church opposition to promiscuity, homosexuality, birth control and abortion will remain "the standard... for all time."

The Pontiff's speeches, coupled with an address on Monday reiterating that he will not let women become priests, represented a ringing papal rejection of demands made by the Dutch Church's large liberal

wing for a relaxation of Catholic doctrine.

Speaking at an open-air Mass in the city of Naastrich, the Pope defended the Vatican's 1968 ban on artificial birth control and refusal to sanction divorce.

He then travelled by train to Amsterdam to participate in a scripted question-and-answer session with young Catholics.

Addressing these young people at the Convention of Our Lady of Ter Eem, he was totally inflexible in his view that "indulgence does not make people happy. The consumer society does not make them happy either."

The early Christians who had been taught by Jesus himself, he said, were "certainly not permissive. I need do no more than refer to the numerous comments in the letters of St Paul on the subject. The words of the apostles are clear and strict. They are words inspired by God. They remain the standard for the Church for all time."

One of the Pope's challenges suggested that young Dutch Catholics believed that "a massive gap existed between the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the pressure imposed on the young by the Church's strictness" particularly on sexuality.

The Pope replied by offering a stern portrait of Jesus. "Dear friends, let me speak frankly. I know that all of you are of good faith. But are you sure your



Mr Justice Poppelwell (right) arriving at the burnt-out stand with Mr Stafford Heginbotham, chairman of the club (Photograph: Suresh Karadia.)

Judge horrified over fire as letter wrangle grows

From Peter Davenport, Bradford

The judge heading the public inquiry into the Bradford City fire visited the football ground yesterday amid mounting controversy over the club's apparent failure to counter fire hazards, despite warnings.

Mr Justice Poppelwell said that the series of letters warning the club about safety hazards and fire risks would form a part of his investigation.

He flew to the city for a personal inspection of the gutted main stand at the Valley Parade ground. He was guided by senior police officers who are investigating the cause of the blaze, which led to 52 deaths. Officials of the club briefed him of the tragic events of Saturday.

Throughout the days since the fire floral tributes have been arriving at the ground, many from the grieving relatives of the dead. The police have arranged them against a smoke-blackened wall at the rear of the main stand.

Mr Justice Poppelwell stopped briefly at two poignant tributes, posies of flowers in soft

drinks bottles balanced on one of the turnstiles and with a note celloped to the side, saying: "To Richard and Robert Ormandroyd and their dad."

After his inspection, during which he spent several moments in the turnstile area where many of the victims died behind locked gates, the judge was asked for his immediate impressions: "It is horrifying," he replied.

He emphasized that the official start of the inquiry had not yet been decided but that it would be public and held in Bradford. His visit yesterday was to familiarize himself with a scene that he had viewed only on television.

Today he is to visit Birmingham for the second part of his inquiry into the outbreak of hooliganism which resulted in the death of one supporter.

The judge, who was briefed over lunch by senior officers on their investigations, arrived as the dispute over the warning letters to the football club took a new twist. It emerged that,

Death toll thought to include 10 children

From Rupert Morris, Bradford

Ten Bradford schoolchildren are believed to have been among the 50 who died in Saturday's fire at the City Ground. Two men in their 70s died later in hospital.

Among the many family tragedies to emerge yesterday as forensic scientists and pathologists continued their grim investigations were the deaths of twins, Richard and Robert Ormandroyd, aged 12, and their father, Mr Gerry Ormandroyd, aged 40.

Another devastated family was that of Ashley Stockman, aged 16 and her 14-year-old brother, Craig Stockman, who were killed with their father, Mr Trevor Stockman.

Mrs Sheila Stockman, the children's stepmother, is a local police woman. The children lived with their mother, Patricia Holroyde, in Bradford.

Mr Peter Greenwood, aged 48, deputy headmaster at Thorn Park School for the deaf died with his two sons, Felix Greenwood, aged 13, and Rupert Greenwood, aged 11.

Mr Norman Middleton, aged 84, and his grandson Adrian Wright, aged 11, are also believed to be among the dead.

By yesterday evening, 22 bodies had been positively identified: 16 men, three boys and three women.

Among the dead were believed to be a man and his son whose wife is pregnant.

Police woman Janice McClean, one of the team of 12 assigned to deal with bereaved relatives, said yesterday: "I'm 21. I've never come across anything like this in my life, and I never want to again. I've had to comfort relatives of the victims who are much older than I am. You just have to do the best you can."

The total death toll was reduced by one yesterday to 52 as pathologists established that what had previously been identified as a body, was a piece of plastic.

A father and son were still on the critical list at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, yesterday. They are Mr Herbert Bamford, aged 72, and Mr Miles Bamford, aged 25. Mr William Sweeney, aged 72, and Mr Eric Hudson, aged 72, are also in a critical condition. Two others are "very ill," and three more "satisfactory and improving."

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with his two sons, Felix Greenwood, aged 13, and Rupert Greenwood, aged 11.

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Rampage by Tamil rebels kills 86

From Donovan Moldrich
Colombo

Seventy-eight people were killed yesterday when Tamil separatists disguised as soldiers drove through the ancient Sinhalese capital of Anuradhapura, firing indiscriminately.

The 40 rebels, travelling in two buses, also killed eight game guards in a shoot-out as they escaped from the Anuradhapura district, which is in north-central Sri Lanka.

More than a hundred people were injured in the attack in the city. Among the dead were 30 women, including five Buddhist nuns, and six children.

The casualties were the worst since the rebels began fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and east, nine years ago.

The Government appealed for calm.

President Jayewardene conferred with members of the Security Council and a Curfew was imposed from 2pm yesterday till 6am today, in Anuradhapura district. Tamils constitute 1.9 per cent of the population in the district and the curfew was to prevent reprisals against them.

The same number of Buddhist pilgrims were killed when the rebels fired at the shrine around the Bo tree brought to Sri Lanka 2,500 years ago from India and which is reputed to be the oldest tree in the world. No damage was caused to the tree, according to Government sources.

It is believed to have grown out of a branch from the tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment.

The Government announced that a combined operation was being carried out to capture the rebels, dead or alive.

Doctors, nurses, and drugs were flown to Anuradhapura. From Anuradhapura the rebels drove to Puttalam, a western coastal town 85 miles north of Colombo. En route they attacked a police station at Neechchigama, injuring a policeman and from there they proceeded to the wild life sanctuary where the shoot-out with the game guards occurred.

Yesterday's attack was a grim fulfilment of a warning by President Jayewardene when he opened parliament in February that the rebels would attempt to shoot their way into the heart of Sri Lanka, to the borders of what they called the state of Eelam.

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West Midlands suffers highest rate of long-term unemployment

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The West Midlands until a few years ago the heartland of the nation's manufacturing industry, now has the highest long-term unemployment rate in Britain, it was disclosed yesterday.

Nearly half, 46.1 per cent, of the region's 357,100 registered unemployed, totalling 164,500 people, have been without work for more than a year.

The figures, revealed to the Commons employment select committee by the Manpower Services Commission, confirm the once enterprising region as a worse jobless blackspot than the traditional high unemployment areas of Scotland, the North and Merseyside. They also present a warning to the Government.

Mr Peter Snape, Labour MP for West Bromwich East and chairman of the parliamentary party's West Midlands group, said yesterday: "We are the lowest paid region; we used to be the highest. Now we have the highest long-term unemployment rate; we used to have the lowest."

"If anyone had said seven years ago we would top these

two league tables they would have been accused of scare-mongering, if not worse. The industries we have lost in the West Midlands are the very ones we need if Britain is ever to be a force in manufacturing again."

He blamed the increase in unemployment on the "torrent" of manufacturing imports entering Britain and on past regional policies which, he said, discriminated against the West Midlands.

"The present policy of the Government seems to be 'If you can import it, why make it'. The only hope for the future is some degree of import control if we are to have any manufacturing industry at all," he added.

But Mr Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove and chairman of the Tories West Midlands group said there was a higher level of commercial activity in the area, although it was yet to be reflected in a lower level of unemployment.

The region was suffering from having relied on a narrow group of manufacturing industries, largely in decline.

UNEMPLOYMENT BY REGION, JANUARY 1985

	No. of unemployed	Unemployment rate	No. unemployed over one year	% of all unemployed
South-east	796.1	10.1	274.1	34.4
London	400.1	10.4	149.1	37.3
East Anglia	63.2	10.9	27.7	43.8
South-west	213.2	12.8	81.8	38.4
West Midlands	357.1	15.8	164.5	46.1
East Midlands	207.1	13.0	76.8	37.1
York & Humbers	209.5	15.2	115.6	55.2
North-west	491.5	16.6	200.1	40.7
North	242.5	18.2	105.8	43.6
Wales	185.9	17.4	74.8	40.2
Scotland	382.2	18.0	138.5	36.2
Great Britain	3217.9	13.6	1255.0	39.0

Source: Department of Employment.

Sun contempt claim

A High Court judge will be asked tomorrow to jail or fine the editor of the *Sun* and the managing director of its publishers, News Group Newspapers, for alleged contempt of court.

Mirror Group Newspapers yesterday issued committal proceedings for alleged breach of an injunction against the *Sun* editor, Mr Kelvin McKenzie, and Mr Bruce Matthews.

The injunction, granted by Mr Justice Hirst last Thursday,

banned the *Sun* from using extracts from Peter Bogdanovich's book *The Killing of the Unicorn* about the "Playboy playmate" Dorothy Stratten who was murdered by her husband, Paul Snyder.

The *Sun* did not challenge the injunction but carried its own Dorothy Stratten story on Saturday, the day the *Mirror*'s serialization began. The *Mirror* Group's lawyers allege that that amounted to a breach of the order.

The Bradford City fire

Kinnock safety and insurance cost plea

By our Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, yesterday urged the Government to devote part of the revenue it receives from football towards paying for the extensive programme of safety improvements it requires at sports grounds after the Bradford City disaster.

In the Commons, Mr Kinnock also asked the Government to step in to help if the Bradford club is found to have insufficient insurance cover to meet all legitimate claims from the bereaved and badly injured.

The Prime Minister, who today meets Lord Hailsham, chairman of the Football Trust, to discuss arrangements for helping clubs to improve their grounds, was noncommittal in reply to both points.

She asked for time to see how much was covered by insurance

and the various disaster funds which had been started.

Referring to safety improvements, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said that the situation was complicated. She pointed out that the Football Grounds Improvement Trust had built up £3.3 million in its bank account which had not been taken up by the clubs, and had been distributed to clubs which had already received grants.

She said: "I think it would be best if we made a thorough inquiry before jumping to any conclusions."

Flowers continued to pour into the football club yesterday. Police officers and well-wishers placed them at the back of the fire-stricken main stand, giving the only touch of colour and life to the blackened remains.

Merseyside fund for fire victims

Everton and Liverpool football clubs gave a total of £20,000 yesterday to start a Merseyside fund to help the Bradford fire disaster victims.

The Police Federation gave more than £5,000. Officers stood in silence at their annual conference in Blackpool to mourn the dead.

Thousands of pounds have poured into the disaster fund launched by Mrs Olive Messer, the city's mayor. Offers of help have come from all over Britain, and as far afield as Germany and Australia.

The Merseyside fund was launched yesterday in a joint move by the two clubs, which have given £10,000 each.

● Notts County yesterday launched an appeal in aid of the dependents of the Bradford City fire victims. In Lincoln it was announced that the city council will be giving £5,000 towards the Bradford appeal.

● Mr David Sharpe, a plastic surgeon at St Luke's hospital, Bradford, said yesterday that he was using pioneering treatment, with surgical staples to clip skin together before grafting, to heal the Bradford fire survivors' burns.

● Proceeds from Saturday's FA Cup Final for 2,000 spectators in Southampton will go to the mayor of Southampton's appeal for the Bradford fire disaster fund.



Thumbs up: Clifford Webb at the controls.

Challenger sets a test of its own

By Clifford Webb Motoring Correspondent

"The Army is offering the new Challenger battle tank. It will make a change from road testing a car," the news editor said. He was, as usual, understating the difficulties involved.

To begin with, although Challenger weighs 62 tons and is powered by a 1,200hp Rolls-Royce diesel engine, the tiny driver's compartment is infinitely more congested than my original Mini. And there is no door.

It seems a bit mean when you have forked out £1.5 million to have to squeeze in through a small manhole, taking care not to damage the controls as you scramble for a foothold.

"OK, let off the parking brake and give it plenty of accelerator," the disembodied voice of the tank commander said through the helmet radio.

"Don't worry, just follow my instructions."

It was all right for him perched up top in the turret, but I was isolated at the sharp end and vulnerable.

On a race track or hurling around a mountain pass I am solely to blame if I make a mistake in a car. Obeying someone else's instructions when hurtling semi-blind across the Royal Tank Regi-

ment's mock battle ground at Bovington, Dorset, is quite another matter.

Thankfully, Challenger, which came into service only last year and is progressively replacing the 20-year-old Chieftain, is reasonably easy to drive. It has an automatic gear box, and that means only two pedals.

Two levers are still there in place of a steering wheel but

now they are inter-linked. By the second time through the water splash I was being urged on by the tank commander, "You're going great guns, sir. Just keep your foot down and we'll have a lot of fun."

Fuel We were approaching what appeared to be a huge water at reckless speed. When we hit the bottom I should lose my new dentil fillings.

For the record, Challenger's top speed is about 37mph on a dry, flat road. It carries 395 gallons of diesel fuel. It carries the same 120mm gun as Chieftain, but its new British-developed "Chobham" armour offers much greater protection.

● A tank crew had a lucky escape near Brighton yesterday when fire swept through their 52-ton Chieftain tank.

Great guns: The Challenger being put through its paces at Bovington, Dorset (Photographs: Warren Harrison).

£50m aid announced for Scots ratepayers

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government announced yesterday aid of £50 million, £10 million more than expected, to ease the burden on Scottish business and domestic ratepayers of the often huge bills they have received this year as a result of revaluation.

Under a Bill to be introduced into Parliament shortly the increases ratepayers pay this year will be limited to a maximum of three times their 1984-85 bill.

They will have a statutory right to claim 100 per cent relief for any sum above that.

A limit of £10,000 is expected to be placed on any single relief payment to ensure that most help goes to the smaller businesses, and that the big businesses such as supermarkets, do not get all the benefit.

About £40 million of the relief announced yesterday by

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, will go to businesses and £10 million to domestic ratepayers, on top of the £37 million they have already been promised.

Mr Younger declined in the Commons to make any commitment for further relief in 1986-87, although Mr Donald Dewar, opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that failure to extend the help in future years would confirm the feeling that the package was "a scaled manoeuvre" designed to contain the explosion of rage at the Scottish Tory conference last week.

Mr Dewar welcomed the aid and said: "It is remarkable how far concentrates the mind." Having said "not a penny more", Mr Younger was scrambling for safety.

Walkout for Princess at conference

A handful of delegates and observers walked out of the annual conference yesterday when Princess Anne arrived to speak to members.

A few in the audience ostentatiously remained seated as the princess entered the conference hall at Bournemouth, while about nine, including a punk-rocker with blond spiked hair and leather-studded belt, walked out.

But the princess received warm applause from the remaining 700 people who clapped and listened with respect as she spoke about the work of the Save the Children Fund, of which she is president.

Later, the union's general secretary, Mr Tony Christopher, described the walkout as "just childish, schoolboy nonsense."

He said he had not noticed the walkout and was sure the princess had not either. Most of those who left the hall are thought to have been observers rather than delegates at the conference, and they declined to talk to the press.

A union spokesman said: "I gather they don't think royalty has a place in a trade union conference."

She was there to launch an appeal by the union for £20,000 to support work on tuberculosis among Tibetan refugees in India. After warm applause, the princess spoke for about 14 minutes on the work of the fund and thanked the union for a past appeal it had made.

£60 youth jobs plan upsets Government

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

An innovation scheme to give 12-month training to new entrants into the Civil Service, which is likely to embarrass the Government in its attempts to reduce young people's earnings, is about to be agreed for staff in the Manpower Services Commission.

Under the proposals, entrants aged 16 joining as clerical assistants would get a starting wage of about £60 a week; young people on the national Youth Training Scheme (YTS), which is administered by the commission, are paid £26.25.

Union leaders and senior Whitehall officials agree that the scheme could be a pace setter for the rest of the Civil Service. Although clerical entrants at present receive training, it is not formalized in the way suggested by the new system.

Under the proposals put forward by Mr Geoffrey Holland, the commission's director, young people joining the Civil Service, such as typists, would get 33 weeks on-the-job training, 13 weeks of further education and a two-week residential course. The suggestions have been accepted by senior management at the commission and await union approval.

Civil Service unions have blocked the introduction of the YTS in government offices because they regard it as the use of "slave labour". Mr Holland's initiative is seen as a way round their opposition, but its acceptance could have wide ramifications.

A Whitehall official said last night that the scheme would be regarded as a "pace setter" for the rest of the Civil Service.

Two pitmen who ambushed a taxi taking a working miner to his colliery during the coal strike, acted "calmly, calculatedly and skillfully" when they killed the taxi driver with a concrete block, Cardiff Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Martin Thomas, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that Russell Shankland and Reginald Dean Hancock, both aged 21, were guilty of murdering Mr David Wilkie, aged 25, when, escorted by a police convoy, he took Mr David Williams to work at the Merthyr Vale colliery last November.

The two men, both of Rhymney, Mid Glamorgan, have pleaded not guilty. Mr Hancock has admitted manslaughter but the prosecution has refused to accept the plea.

Mr Thomas said: "These two men, Hancock and Shankland, had deliberately and with the full appreciation of the consequences aimed and propelled the concrete block and the post at the taxi carrying David Wilkie and David Williams."

It was done, Mr Thomas said, "not to cause an obstruction in the road, haphazardly or indiscriminately at the police convoy by way of some form of protest, but determinedly at that taxi and its occupants."

A third miner, Anthony Williams, aged 26, also of Rhymney, has been found not guilty of murder. He faces two charges of conspiring to damage the taxi with intent to endanger the lives of the occupants.

The trial continues today.

Taxi driver 'deliberately killed'

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Legionnaires fear continues

Health officials are alarmed at the many people still refusing to keep out-patients appointments at Stafford District General Hospital, even though it has been declared safe after the legionnaires' disease outbreak in which 36 people died.

Officials said yesterday that, although the water in the hospital's cooling system, assumed to have been the source of the infection, had been disinfected 10 days ago and the building given a clean bill of health, only three in every ten

children with out-patients appointments were being brought in by their parents.

Overall, attendances in the out-patients were down by 30 per cent. Mr Jim Bartlett, general manager of the Mid-Shropshire District Health Authority, said:

"We are very worried about the low attendances, particularly of children. It indicates that people do not appreciate the hospital is safe. There is absolutely no reason why anyone should not bring their

infection were already ill with the disease, acquired elsewhere, when admitted."

Tests on cooling towers at the Royal Liverpool, then and later, proved negative for the organism responsible for the disease.

A research programme at the hospital, aimed at developing a new rapid means of diagnosing the disease, has had to be suspended this year as a direct result of government cuts.

The only patients treated for the

there was a national shortage of specialists trained to deal with them.

The Royal Liverpool Hospital yesterday pointed out that no patient has ever acquired legionnaires' disease in the hospital. An article in *The Times* last week wrongly implied that the hospital was the source of an infection in 1980. The only patients treated for the

By Michael Hornsall

Mr Steven Owen, aged 23, a self-employed Scottish builder, is considering taking legal action after spending three days in custody over two minor parking offences.

Mr Peter Fraser, Solicitor General for Scotland, admitted that a local court was wrong in granting a warrant for his arrest, last February.

Mr Owen faced two charges of contravening the Road Traffic Act, 1974, after a van he uses for his work was found twice last year on yellow lines near his home in Market Street, Musselburgh, near Edinburgh. The court action came after Mr Owen's failure to return inquiry letters about the ownership of the vehicle which had been sent by police.

Mr Nigel Beaumont, his

solicitor, said yesterday: "I regard it as scandalous that a warrant can be incompetently obtained and then applied so rigorously in respect of such a trivial matter."

"When I was told Mr Owen had been arrested I applied to the procurator fiscal to authorize police to release him until his court appearance, but he refused. He lost a great deal of income and has cause for redress."

Mr Fraser carried out an inquiry into the case after it was raised by Mr John Home Robertson, Labour MP for East Lothian, and Mr Owen's MP. Mr Owen was not available for comment last night.

On December 10 a police officer served on Mr Owen a copy complaint and citation

requiring him to appear at East Lothian district court nine days later to answer two charges of contravening the Road Traffic Act, 1974.

When he failed to appear the case was continued without plea until January 9, 1985 and a letter was allegedly sent to Mr Owen informing him, which he denies receiving.

When on January 9 he again failed to appear, the case was further continued without plea until January 23. But an instruction by the procurator fiscal to the police to inform him of the new date was not carried out because officers were unable to contact him at home.

On January 23 the procurator fiscal deputes conducting the proceedings made a motion to the court for a warrant to

Benefit for under-26s to be cut, MP says

By Nicholas Timmins Social Services Correspondent

Unemployed men and women aged 25 and under are to be forced on to a new, lower rate of supplementary benefit, losing at least £5 a week. The Government is also to legislate to stop local authorities giving free school meals and free milk to children whose families are not on the lowest level of state support, Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East said yesterday.

Mr Brown said he had it from authoritative sources that the moves are planned as part of the Government's reviews of social security.

Those aged under 26, he said, will in future be treated as "juveniles" by the social security system to try to force them to stay with their families rather than become householders able to claim benefit in their own right.

"The idea is to force the unemployed on to lower benefits on the assumption that there are jobs they would take if benefits were lower," he said. But Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, had told a select committee last year that he was "totally unconvinced" that benefit levels prevented people taking jobs.

Under the Government's new Family Credit, which will replace family income supplement paid to 200,000 claimants, the families would no longer be entitled to free school meals or school milk, Mr Brown said.

"Legislation will be introduced to prevent local authorities providing free meals and milk to children whose parents are not on basic supplementary benefit," he said.

For a million people aged between 18 and 25 on supplementary benefit, benefit would be cut from £28 to £23 a week, but they could then lose up to another £10 a week from other cuts. Along with the other six million claimants of housing benefit, they would have to pay 20 per cent of their rates.

In addition, there were plans to cut unemployment benefit from one year to six months.

Mr Brown said he was told the Government planned to save £500 million a year from housing benefit, taking 1.8 million people out of benefit entirely, £200 million from not uprating child benefit in line with inflation, and £200 million in cuts in supplementary benefit.

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Women to test technique for early detection of abnormal foetuses

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Medical Research Council is to launch a three-year study into the safety of a new technique which should greatly improve the detection of foetal abnormalities.

The technique, chorion villus sampling, should allow earlier, safer and less traumatic abortions in cases where abnormalities such as Down's Syndrome are detected, and earlier reassurance for pregnant women at risk of having an abnormal baby when all is well.

The study, to be carried out at a cost of £70,000 in between 15 and 20 British centres in co-operation with European centres, will compare the safety and effectiveness of the technique with amniocentesis, the standard technique for detecting foetal abnormality.

Between 2,000 and 4,000 women will take part in the trial. They and their children will be put on a national register to allow them to be followed up, ensuring there are no long-term hazards from the technique.

Chorion villus sampling (CVS) involves taking a minute piece of the developing placenta, at eight to eleven weeks of pregnancy, and testing cells for inherited abnormalities ranging from Down's Syndrome to Huntington's chorea, phenylketonuria and the blood dis-

orders haemophilia, thalassaemia and sickle-cell disease. DNA probes, which will detect cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy, are also under development.

With amniocentesis, in which some of the fluid surrounding the foetus is drawn off, cells on which the tests are performed have to be grown. The test cannot be done before 15 weeks of pregnancy and results are often not available until 19 weeks, when abortions are more traumatic and riskier than in the first three months of pregnancy.

With CVS more cells are available, removing the need to grow them, so the test is not only done earlier but results are available more quickly.

The technique, developed during the past three years, has so far been used on between 300 and 400 women in Britain. Early studies suggest that it may result in an abortion in between 2 per cent and 5 per cent of cases. The risks of amniocentesis causing loss of the foetus are put at between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent.

The aim of the council's study is to establish precisely the relative risks of the two techniques and the cases in which the CVS may be more suitable.

Dr Tom Meade, chairman of the research council's working party on CVS, said yesterday: "There is a very fine balance between the two approaches. Amniocentesis is probably less hazardous but means considerably later diagnosis of any genetic disorder. CVS may be more hazardous to the normal foetus, but gives a much earlier diagnosis."

The trial should establish the real risk. But if the technique proves as safe as amniocentesis it will revolutionize the prenatal diagnosis of genetic disease, the council said. The technique, as well as being easier, should also prove cheaper than amniocentesis.

Most of the women who will be asked to take part in the study, randomly allocated to testing by amniocentesis or CVS, will be aged 35, when they run a higher risk of a Down's Syndrome child.

Entry into the trial will be voluntary, and any woman who has had a previous abnormal baby will be able to opt for CVS if she wishes to.

The council said that "where there has not been a previously abnormal pregnancy we hope patients will decide to take part in the trial, both in their own interests and in the interests of other patients in the future."



Opening ceremony: Buddhist monks (above) at the inauguration yesterday of the 110ft peace pagoda (below), in Battersea Park, London, a gift to the capital from the Nipponzan Myohoji sect (Photographs: John Manning).

Rules soon on drug test payments

By Thomson Practice

Strict new guidelines aimed at protecting medical students and others who volunteer for "guinea pig" drug tests are to be published by the Royal College of Physicians of London this year.

The college has been conducting an inquiry into drug testing after the deaths in the past 12 months of two students, in Cardiff and Dublin, who took part in experiments for pharmaceutical products.

The college is examining questions of payments to volunteers, their fitness to take part in tests and compensation in the event of death, illness or injury.

"Our main objective is to increase the protection of the volunteer. There is a great advantage in carrying out these tests but we feel they must be regulated", Sir Raymond Hofenberg, president of the college, said.

The college has taken evidence from students, drug companies, insurance companies and others.

School not told girl was in care

By Tony Samstag

When Jasmine Beckford, aged four, attended a local nursery school with bruises on her face, staff accepted her mother's explanation that the child had fallen off a bicycle because they had never been told she was under a care order, the independent enquiry into her death was told yesterday.

Had they known they "would have contacted a social worker right away", Mrs Ashley Fayer, who was then a nursery assistant at Princess Fredericka School, Kensal Green, north London, said.

The child's increasingly poor attendance record in her nine months at the school during 1983 would also have caused concern, she added.

The girl's stepfather and mother, Maurice Beckwood and Beverly Lorrington, both aged 25, were jailed last March in connection with her death while in the care of Brent Council. The inquiry, at Brent Town Hall, continues today.



Surge in retail spending continues

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Spending in shops rose again last month as consumers shrugged off the effects of higher mortgage rates and the gloomy spring weather.

The volume of retail sales rose by 0.5 per cent in April to the second highest level on record. The Department of Trade and Industry's volume index stood at 114.4 (1980=100), compared with 113.8 in March and December's record of 115.6.

The department said the increase was across the board and that was confirmed by the leading retail groups.

The John Lewis Partnership, department stores and the Waitrose supermarket chain said that the first week in May had been particularly strong after a good April.

The Retail Consortium said the April figures could have been even better had there not been poor weather, including one Saturday when it snowed. The weather is thought to have been responsible for sluggish sales of women's spring and summer clothing.

The April sales volume was 4 per cent higher than a year earlier, and the value of sales was 8 per cent higher.

Access cuts its fraud losses

The Access credit card company has reduced fraud losses this year despite an increase of a quarter in its turnover. The company said yesterday that fraud losses in the first three months of this year amounted to £1.5 million, £200,000 less than in the equivalent period of 1984.

Last year 17p in every £100 spent on Access was lost to fraud. So far this year the figure has been reduced to 12p. Caravans are the principal area for fraudulent use of cards.

Train driver admits drinking

Stephen Rowlands, a British Rail driver, admitted to magistrates in Wallington, Surrey, yesterday that he had drunk two pints of lager at a club before going on duty and that he drove through four stations without stopping.

But he said he was only following the instructions on his job sheet and did not break the rules.

Mr Roland Hartfield, British Rail depot manager at Selhurst,

south-east London, told the court that drivers are supposed to check the job sheet against the working timetable. But they often just followed their instructions.

Mr Rowlands, aged 26, of Station Approach, Coulsden, Surrey, said he was following what another driver had written on his job sheet. He also admitted picking up a man wearing a high visibility jacket at Wimbledon station.

He said: "I had seen him about on the track. He said 'Hallo driver. Will you drop me off at East Croydon?' I said 'Yes, mate', expecting him to be staff."

Mr Rowlands denies being drunk while driving the London Bridge to Sutton train last September, missing stations, and having a friend in the cab with him.

The hearing continues today.

Woman, 79, drove on three wheels

Ethel Beardsworth, aged 79, who turned on her car radio to drown the noise as she drove on three wheels was yesterday banned from driving for two years and fined a total of £375.

Magistrates in Chertsey, Surrey, had been told how twice within 12 days she caused havoc on the roads.

The first time, other drivers were forced to take avoiding action as she drove in the wrong direction down a dual carriageway on the A3 at Woking.

Less than two weeks later she drove on three tyres through Chobham and Addlestone after a front tyre burst.

She appeared before magistrates with a broken wrist after falling off her bicycle while the car was being repaired.

Beardsworth, of Rydens Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, widow of an air vice-marshal, who told the police she passed her advanced driver's test two years ago, pleaded guilty to two offences of driving without due care and attention, using a motor car in a dangerous condition and driving with defective eyesight.

Sergeant Stephen Buckle told the court that the police were able to stop her on the A3 on April 15 only by driving in the wrong direction on the dual carriageway themselves. She told them that she was not driving in the wrong direction.

The officers gave Beardsworth an eyesight test and she



Ethel Beardsworth: banned for two years.

could read a vehicle index plate only from 31 feet away.

Sergeant Buckle said that 12 days later Beardsworth was driving her Ford Fiesta along Chertsey Road, Chobham, towards Ottershaw when two cars overtook her.

"She steered into the near-side kerb, hitting it and burst the front nearside tyre. She heard the noise but turned the radio on because she wanted to get home."

Then a man spoke to her at traffic lights and tried to tell her something was wrong.

Sergeant Buckle said: "But she just replied that she was going shopping. In the interests of safety he removed her ignition keys."

By that time the wheel and the front bumper of her car were missing.

Chief Rabbi at dismissal hearing

Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, is to appear before a rabbinical court being set up to settle the dispute between the Jews College in London and Rabbi Simche Lieberman, a dismissed lecturer.

The agreement to create a Beth Din, which is unusual in Jewish law, comes after a dispute lasting several months between Rabbi Lieberman and the college over his dismissal after 14 years of service. Sir Immanuel will appear in his capacity as college president.

The Rabbi claims that he was unfairly dismissed after a dispute over the orthodoxy of teaching at the college, which trains most of Britain's rabbis. There was also, he says, a personal dispute with the new principal of the college, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, a former pupil of Rabbi Lieberman.

£100,000 bail for man on Libya charge

Godfrey Shiner, a British tax exile, was freed on £100,000 bail in London yesterday despite police fears that he would be in danger of "Libyan retribution" if released.

Shiner, aged 47, who was arrested at Heathrow airport on Monday, has been charged with conspiring with Anthony Gill to help Colonel Gaddafi's brother-in-law to flee Britain to escape a drugs trial.

Shiner appeared at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court after being deported from Egypt, where he was detained in connection with an alleged plot to assassinate a former Libyan Prime Minister who was a leading Gaddafi opponent.

The police are alleging that Shiner conspired to fund the escape of Muhammad Shabli to Libya in a light aircraft six days before he was to go on trial at Croydon Crown Court for possession of cannabis and cocaine.

The magistrate, Mr Eric Crowther, remanded Shiner until June 12 on two sureties of £30,000. He was also ordered to deposit a £40,000 cash security, surrender his passports, and report nightly to police.

Soldier denies killing three in pay robbery

A soldier mentioned in dispatches while serving in Northern Ireland yesterday denied shooting dead three men in a payroll robbery.

Corporal Andrew Walker, of The Royal Scots, told the High Court in Edinburgh that he believed the killings were the work of a terrorist organization.

He added: "There is no way I would have had the capability of shooting three people, cold-bloodedly, in the head."

He was giving evidence on the tenth day of the trial to answer questions by Mr Donald Macaulay, for the defence.

Questioned by the Lord Advocate, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, Corporal Walker said that he tried to borrow a 9mm pistol from a soldier on the day before the killings.

It is alleged that Corporal Walker shot Major David Cunningham (retd), Staff Sergeant Terence Hosker and Private John Thomson on January 17 somewhere between Penicuik and Flotterstone Glen.

Corporal Walker, aged 31, denies murder and robbery and has lodged a special defence of alibi.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Five new versions of Nova go on sale

By our Motoring Correspondent

Vauxhall announces today five new versions of its Spanish-made Nova to add to the 11 already on sale here. Their arrival will add fuel to the increasing controversy about unfair importing of Spanish cars.



The Vauxhall Nova four-door saloon, one of five new versions of the Spanish-made car to be sold in Britain.

Last week Seat, the state-owned Spanish car maker, disclosed that it planned to export 20,000 cut-price cars a year to Britain.

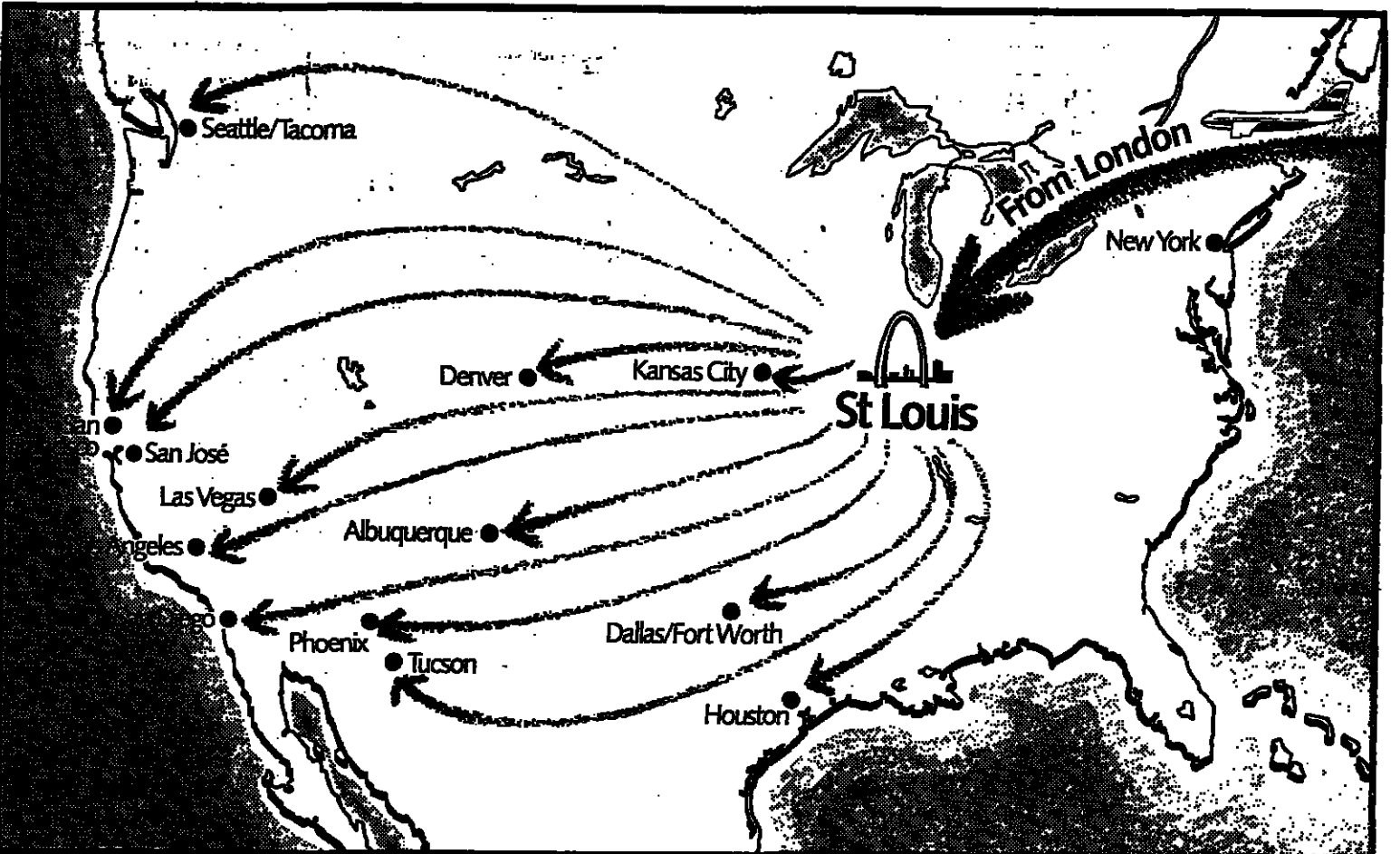
General Motors, Vauxhall's American parent, and Ford already import more than

100,000 Spanish Fiestas and Novas a year. They pay less than 4 per cent import duty, while Austin Rover cars travelling in the opposite direction are subject to an average of 30 per cent import tax. As a result only 4,000 British cars were sold in Spain last year.

Spain joins the EEC on January 1 but has persuaded her new partners to permit a breathing space of seven years during which she will progressively remove tariff barriers. It will be 1991 before "free and equal" trade is possible.

Previous saloon and hatchback versions of the Nova had only two passenger doors. Now they are being supplemented by models with rear passenger doors. Prices range from £4,053 to £6,055.

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New daily TWA non-stop 747 service into the heart of America.

TWA's new daily 747 service non-stop to St. Louis from London Gatwick departs every day at 13.35 arriving 16.30.

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PARLIAMENT MAY 14 1985

Help for ratepayers

Football tragedy

Oil regime

Commentary

Fowler attacks scare stories: pensions tax relief unchanged

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, told the Commons he was prepared to be judged on the proposals in the Green Paper to be published after Whitson on the future of social security and pensions and not prepared to be judged on the scare stories of the Opposition.

He maintained the Commons questioning about the outcome of the Government's reviews that the biggest deceit was to make promises, as the Opposition continued to do, which it knew perfectly well could not be fulfilled.

The Government's proposals would not, he added, affect the basic pension. The Government remained absolutely committed to pensioners. There were no plans to change the tax relief on occupational pensions.

There was total agreement that the social security system must be reviewed against the needs which gave him most cause for concern were families with children, where there was undoubtedly need at the moment.

Dr Kenneth McDonald (Thurrock, Lab): Phasing out the state pensioner's pension scheme (Serps) will mean that more pensioners in the future will have to rely on supplementary benefits and that both workers and employers will have to pay higher national insurance contributions for workers to get far less by way of pensions in the future.

Mr Fowler: That is a very silly statement. The proposals do not affect the basic pension. Our position on that is clear. The basic pension has increased by 84 per cent compared to a 77 per cent rise in prices and we remain absolutely committed to the pensioners of this country.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab): Scrapping Serps is yet another attempt to cut public expenditure in order to give further tax hand-outs to the rich, irrespective of the fact that 11 million contributors could

lose their pension rights and many thousands more could be living in poverty at the turn of the century.

Mr Fowler: I do not accept the last part of what he said. Nor will he, when he sees the proposals. It would be utterly irresponsible of any Government not to look forward and make some judgement of what the costs are that this country is going to have to bear.

Mr Alan Roberts (Bosley, Lab): Instead of devising ways of taking money from those less able to support themselves in our community, instead of devising ways of scrapping housing benefit for millions of people, why does not the minister consider in his review ways of helping people in most need?

For example why does he not extend to elderly people living in public sector housing the right to live rent-free in the way owner-occupiers have?

Mr Fowler: Yes. Need and definition of need has changed. We have got to have a modern social security system and that is why this Government is putting forward a Green Paper so that the public and the country can know what the issues are.

Mr Margaret Beckett, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security: Expansion of private cover to those covered by Serps seems likely to cost about £3,000 million to £6,000 million extra in tax relief alone. Can the Secretary of State tell us how soon we can expect the Chancellor of the Exchequer to renege on his commitment not to change tax relief for private pensioners?

Mr Fowler: There are no plans to change the tax relief on occupational pensions. The biggest swindle on pensioners was carried out in 1976 by the last Labour Government when they changed the basis of up-rating and save £1,200 million. That was what the Labour Party did when they were in power.

He said later that an important part of the whole study and the debate which would follow it was the relationship between the social security system and the tax system. Both he and the Chancellor were conscious of this.

occupiers having received income tax relief on their mortgages live mortgage-free after 25 to 30 years of subsidy?

Mr Fowler: The importance of the social security review - and I think there is no difference between sides of the House on this - is to take an overall look at social security provision. One of the aims is to seek to simplify the system and I think that is what the review is about.

The second is to make the best use of available resources and channel those to those most in need.

of relief will fail to be adjusted accordingly.

The new relief is intended to ease the immediate burden arising from the high valuation increases which took effect at April 1 and will apply in the year 1985-86. I will consider in due course whether there is a case for any special relief in 1986-87.

Mr Younger: It is difficult to be precise but I expect this will probably help about 30,000 commercial ratepayers and as many as 250,000 domestic ratepayers.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, West, Lab): What does he mean by new money? This is really recycled money. He is interfering with revaluation and it would be better to postpone the whole exercise until a local government finance on a reasonable footing.

Mr Younger: New money means what it says. It will not require any reductions in any other parts of the Scottish Office programme. It comes from the contingency fund.

That is right and that is why the Government set up the review.

Mr Brian Mawhinney (Petersborough, C): Many of us are looking forward to reading his review in the confident expectation that it will fully protect the standard of living of those of our fellow-citizens who are genuinely in need.

Mr Fowler: Yes and I think that will be one of the standards, which MPs and the country will want to apply to the proposals that are set out. There seems to me total agreement that the social security system must be looked at again, and this Government is doing that when other governments have failed it.

Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield, North, C): The needs of citizens have changed over the last 40 years. Would not we be failing in our duty if we did not take this opportunity of reviewing the system?

Mr Fowler: Yes. Need and definition of need has changed. We have got to have a modern social security system and that is why this Government is putting forward a Green Paper so that the public and the country can know what the issues are.

Mr Margaret Beckett, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security: Expansion of private cover to those covered by Serps seems likely to cost about £3,000 million to £6,000 million extra in tax relief alone. Can the Secretary of State tell us how soon we can expect the Chancellor of the Exchequer to renege on his commitment not to change tax relief for private pensioners?

Mr Fowler: There are no plans to change the tax relief on occupational pensions. The biggest swindle on pensioners was carried out in 1976 by the last Labour Government when they changed the basis of up-rating and save £1,200 million. That was what the Labour Party did when they were in power.

He said later that an important part of the whole study and the debate which would follow it was the relationship between the social security system and the tax system. Both he and the Chancellor were conscious of this.

occupiers having received income tax relief on their mortgages live mortgage-free after 25 to 30 years of subsidy?

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Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, West, Lab): What does he mean by new money? This is really recycled money. He is interfering with revaluation and it would be better to postpone the whole exercise until a local government finance on a reasonable footing.

Mr Younger: New money means what it says. It will not require any reductions in any other parts of the Scottish Office programme. It comes from the contingency fund.

Thorough study of financial implications

BRADFORD FIRE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was pressed in the Commons by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, over the use of Government money to improve safety at football grounds following the Bradford City fire disaster.

The Prime Minister, who will today be meeting Lord Aberdeen, chairman of the Football Trust, said the situation was complicated. It would be best to have a thorough inquiry rather than jump to conclusions.

Mr Kinnock, opening the exchanges, said: As we grieve with those most directly affected by the tragedy at Valley Parade on Saturday, may I ask her two questions, both of which require immediate reassurance.

Will the Government ensure that none of the bereaved or those who suffered grievous injury will have to endure additional suffering if it becomes evident that Bradford City F.C. does not have sufficient insurance cover to meet all legitimate claims?

Is the Government prepared to use part of the large revenues it derives directly from football for immediately undertaking an extensive programme of improvements at public sporting grounds?

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and see exactly how much is covered by insurance and also the other various disaster funds which have been set up.

I shall be seeing the chairman of the Football Trust, Lord Aberdeen, tomorrow.

The situation is complicated. There is £27 million a year goes to the Football Trust from 20 per cent of the turnover of the Spot. The Ball competition. Half of this goes to the Football Grounds Improvement Trust for ground improvements at Football League clubs.

In 1984 the improvement trust accumulated £23 million in its bank account because there had been insufficient extra demand from the league clubs for ground improvements.

Mrs Thatcher: I am seeing Lord Aberdeen tomorrow to see him long before the tragedy last Saturday. That makes it all the more urgent.

Mr Kinnock: I ask that the inquiries be not merely thorough but urgent. For those people in deep anxiety and also because of the implications for crowd safety it is necessary that effective action be taken as quickly as possible.

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Contract services should not affect efficiency

HOSPITALS

There was no intrinsic reason why hospital services should be better whether the employees were employed in-house or contracted, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said during Commons questions.

What matters (he said) is good management and cost effective services of the right standard.

Many local authorities were finding it easier to get standards of outside contractors improved than to cope with some in-house cleaners who had let standards decline.

Mr Michael Mescher, chief Opposition spokesman on Social Services, said that whatever profits private firms were producing it was also worsening standards of care in the NHS.

A hip operation on a woman in her 60s (he said) had to be cancelled in the last month at Addenbrooks, Cambridge, when blood and bone were found on the floor because the private contractors, OCS, failed to clean the theatre after the previous day's operation. Such examples are frequent.

The level of cross-infection in hospitals has reached the record level, he said, and is undoubtedly due partly to the squalid standards of much privatised cleaners.

Mr Clarke: There is a great deal of scandalous propaganda going on in support of vested interests in the private sector and the Labour Party did when they were in power.

He said later that an important part of the whole study and the debate which would follow it was the relationship between the social security system and the tax system. Both he and the Chancellor were conscious of this.

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London-wide arts body rejected

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The quality of life for millions of Londoners and those in the metropolitan counties could be damaged if the Government's proposals for arts and recreation to the Local Government Bill were adopted, Lord Strabolgi (Lab) said during the seventh day of the committee stage in the House of Lords.

He was moving a new clause which would establish for Greater London a corporate body to take on all the arts and recreation functions presently administered by the GLC and the 32 London boroughs.

He was also speaking to a further new clause which would vest arts and recreation functions in the metropolitan counties in the appropriate joint authority.

The Bill did not even mention recreation, he said. Nothing was said about what was intended for the GLC's many parks, green belt land, and its sports centres.

He said: These are all things concerned with the quality of life. In respect to these duties the GLC did an excellent job. Why then should they be dismantled and distributed among the boroughs, quangos and other bodies and some of them to disappear because the successor bodies were unable or unwilling to continue them?

That route led to confusion, waste, loss to the economy, squabbles between the boroughs and a variability in the levels of service from one borough to another.

They all had to wrestle with their current costs, as central government had found, but the total expenditure by these authorities on the arts was not of a kind that was liable to get them ended up in some rate-capper's goal.

The arts had nothing to fear from this policy of abolition of the upper tier of local government. He would not remain minister if they did.

Lord Jenkins of Putney (Lab), for the Opposition, said the minister had not succeeded in convincing many people in the arts world and all those who were dependent upon arts funding throughout the country.

Lord Strabolgi's new clause was rejected by 143 to 129.

The related new clause was not put to a vote.

options to purchase LPG under the participation agreements, and this could not be justified if participation trading in crude was being wound up. In any case, BNOB had been precluded from exercising new options to take LPGs.

The board of BNOB was currently paying particular attention to assisting staff, because the majority would have to move from the corporation. The board had already conveyed to staff the terms of the compensation arrangements and what compensation was to be received by those who became redundant.

I understand (he said) the terms are in line with benefits paid by oil companies generally.

Mr Edward Rowlands, an Opposition spokesman on energy, said this would make a contribution to the Government's policy of reducing production of small, independent oil companies.

One of the most spurious reasons given by the Government for the abolition of BNOB was on the issue of stabilising prices.

Oil supplies secure after abolition of BNOB

NORTH SEA OIL

Abolition of the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) would in no way diminish Britain's security of supplies of oil and its products, Mr Alec Buchanan-Smith, Minister for State for Energy, assured MPs when he gave the second reading of the Oil and Pipelines Bill in the Commons.

He said the Bill would abolish the BNOB while transferring some of its functions to a smaller body to be called the Oil and Pipelines Agency.

They are already intended to retain in the agency the function of managing the Government's pipeline and storage system. This covered some 1,000 miles of oil pipeline and 41 oil storage facilities.

The agency would not continue BNOB's role in trading in liquefied petroleum gases. The Government did not want any reason for the public sector remaining in the LPG market.

At present BNOB handled under 30 per cent of the UK's requirement of oil and its products, and under 20 per cent of total UK output including that from refineries.

The agency could retain sufficient volumes of LPG to trade effectively only if it continued to exercise

believe the result was to improve our economic performance, this country would not need to offer such high interest rates in order to attract investment.

There are, for example, several sensible things that the Government could do to improve the competitiveness of industry. It could do more to reduce the employer's national insurance contributions. It could provide greater encouragement to investment. It could help to reduce the rates of interest on industry. It could help to improve infrastructure and communications.

The free market is a theoretical abstraction. It does not exist in reality, never has and never will. What matters is not whether Government intervenes, but how they intervene. Government intervention is inadequate. After six years, the Government has no industrial strategy and has shown no recognition that a mutual understanding between the unions and business management more direct action to improve the competitiveness of industry, a stronger regional policy, greater encouragement to private and public sector investment, a coherent exchange rate policy and a more comprehensive social policy.

With every day that passes, with every new reminder of the failure of present policies, with every refusal to listen to any other point of view, with every act of distance from the feelings and instincts of its own supporters and of the British people as a whole, this Conservative Government has been giving round after round of ammunition to its political opponents. It makes a danger of being sunk by its own shell.

Letters, leading article, page 15

Imp of vanity unextinguished

With the televising of their proceedings there may also be a greater temptation to grab the limelight. The imp of human vanity has not been extinguished in the Upper House.

Up to a point this is a desirable. One of the purposes of having a second Chamber should be to give the Commons occasionally the chance to think again. But this power still needs to be exercised within limits. What should they be?

Whether a Bill is implementing a manifesto commitment is important, but should not be the sole consideration.

Whether there is reason to suppose that the Commons might change its mind if given the chance is a critical factor. That is why the size of the majority that a Bill receives in the Commons before it goes to the Lords matters so much. So, too, does public opinion, though the Lords should not act as a substitute for a referendum on individual issues.

MPs in new group are 'steeped in traditional Tory values', says Pym

The following are extracts from the speech by Mr Francis Pym to the Oxford University Law Society at the Oxford Union last night.

To start with, let me make a short declaration of the obvious. The name of the group is Conservative Centre Forward, and in that name lies the group's entire meaning.

Conservative. First and foremost we are committed members of the Conservative Party. We are not doubters on the fringe. We are all steeped in the traditional values of Conservatism. We are loyal to the Conservative Party. We are determined to ensure the most pervasive and recent definition of that term. Nor are we centrists within the political spectrum as a whole. We share the same values of 'One Nation' Conservatism that have been at the heart of the party for almost the whole of the last century.

Forward. We are looking forward. We are concerned with the future of the country and of our Government. We want to make positive contribution to the direction of both. Our eyes are on what is now, and on what is to come.

Let me list the large areas of common ground between Conservative Centre Forward and the Government.

We both agree on the broad analysis of the problems that faced the country in the late 1970s. The Government, unions and management were failing to exercise their responsibilities and that, as a result, British industry was losing ground and the economy was rapidly declining. We agree that the principal immediate enemy was inflation. It was destroying living standards. It had to be reduced drastically. And it has been. And we are proud of that.

We agree as well on the ideal of a free economy and a free society. We all saw the chains that dragged at the heels of industry. Chains of excessive State ownership, and of heavy-handed Government intervention. Chains of restrictive union practices, and excessive union power. Chains of defeatism and complacency. Chains of bureaucracy, and of excessive taxation. We all wanted to break those chains and many have been broken.

We have been through the lobbies to support the privatization of State industry and the reform of trade union legislation, and we will continue to do so. We have applauded the Government's firm moral support to industry, that has encouraged industry to manage with its proper authority and confidence, and we have applauded the extension of wider share ownership. And we will continue to do so.

We are proud of the moves towards greater social freedom as well. The assistance to home

ownership through the sale of council houses to their tenants is in the best tradition of popular Toryism. Major efforts have been made to raise educational standards, and to ensure that today's learning matches the needs of tomorrow's knowledge.

There are many other substantial areas of agreement, ranging from the strengthening of the Police at home to the strengthening of our foreign and defence policies abroad.

So what are the differences? As I have said, they do not concern our mutual intentions. The Government's prime objective is to help British industry to be restored to robust health and to much fuller employment, by helping to make it more competitive in world markets and by promoting a vigorous free enterprise economy. That is an essential objective and one that the whole nation ought to share.

The differences concern the policies used to meet those objectives. Some of those policies have not worked, and there is no sign that they will work in the future. In answer to that charge, it is no defence to say that the Labour Party's policies are worse. Nor to say that the problems were aggravated by external factors. Nor to say that the objectives are beyond the power of Government fully to achieve. All these things may be true - indeed, they are true - but they do not amount to an adequate defence.

There are two central questions. Are the Government's policies actually achieving their objectives? If not, have the alternatives been

fully examined? The Conservative Party as a whole, and the Government in particular, has an obligation to ask these questions and to answer them. At the moment, the Government is not asking either question. Instead, it blantly asserts that its policies are working.

If one takes growth, unemployment and competitiveness together, the bald facts of our six years in office are these:

1. There has been growth of little more than half a per cent a year. Without North Sea oil, there would have been almost no growth overall. More than half the country has experienced all or negative growth. Manufacturing output has fallen by 7 per cent.

2. Unemployment has nearly tripled and is still rising.

3. British industry is less competitive compared with many other leading countries.

4. In summary of the seven nations gathered in Bonn for the recent summit meeting, only Italy has an appreciably worse record on unemployment and competitiveness than we do, and only Italy and France have worse records on growth and even on inflation.

I do not see how we can possibly be satisfied with the success of our policies, and nor do most people in the country. Can the Government really be satisfied itself?

Recent arguments have been met with slogans. If anyone suggests that the Government should invest in industry, it is pushed up interest rates because of the greater competition for finance. But such an effect would only have a marginal bearing on inflation at worst. And if as I

should try to work together, the slogan is "corporate state". If anyone suggests spending money, the slogan is "inflationary". And if anyone suggests anything, the slogan is "back to the discredited policies of the past".

These slogans are an insult to the intelligence of the nation and, for that matter, an insult to the intelligence of the Government itself. They are also a caricature of what people are actually saying. There may be sections of the Labour Party this year for the "old pals" days of the 70s, but most of us want no such thing. We would rather have a return to an inflation-ridden economy, to unnecessary State intervention in industry, to a return to over-spending and over-borrowing on the scale we witnessed last time. We are suggesting no such things.

We do not accept the Government's explanation for the causes of inflation, namely an extreme aversion to borrowing, or its ideological bias against involvement in industry. Increased borrowing and spending would certainly be inflationary if it was used to finance substantial wage increases, but it is not. We are suggesting that, instead, we are arguing for more investment in the public sector, and the encouragement of more investment in the private sector. The only way in which this would be inflationary is if it pushed up interest rates because of the greater competition for finance. But such an effect would only have a marginal bearing on inflation at worst. And if as I

believe the result was to improve our economic performance, this country would not need to offer such high interest rates in order to attract investment.

There are, for example, several sensible things that the Government could do to improve the competitiveness of industry. It could do more to reduce the employer's national insurance contributions. It could provide greater encouragement to investment. It could help to reduce the rates of interest on industry. It could help to improve infrastructure and communications.

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Rise in drug abuse is most serious criminal menace police chief says

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

About 250,000 people may be addicted to opium derivatives by the end of the decade if drug abuse continues to grow at the present alarming rate, according to an estimate quoted by Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary yesterday.

There is growing recognition within the police that the consequences of the upsurge in drug addiction represents the most serious criminal menace facing us over the next few years, he said.

Sir Lawrence, who was giving the presidential address to the Police Mutual Assurance Society at its annual conference in Torquay, said that many burglaries were being committed to finance drug addiction.

In spite of the seizure of 300 kilograms of heroin last year by customs officers, the most so far, the drug's street price had never been lower, showing that there was no scarcity.

Sir Lawrence, who was reviewing the work of the police in a "momentous year", said that the success of mutual arrangements during the miners' strike showed that extra officers could be provided in

any part of the country without the need for a specialist unit such as a "third tier force", similar to the French CRS.

The success of the National Reporting Centre, also provides a positive argument against the formation of a national police force, he said.

Sir Lawrence is chairman of a working group of chief constables and others examining security for future party conferences after the attack on the Grand Hotel, Brighton, during the Conservative Party conference.

He said that increased security could be gained only with a corresponding decrease in civil liberties, and the right balance had to be found.

The number of graduates in the service, now more than 4,000, were increasing at an annual rate of 25 per cent.

With budgets at a standstill and significant reductions in some cases, chief constables were having to select priorities for expenditure.

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Duke case jury told of 'seedy trio'

Three men on trial on charges concerning the Duke of Devonshire's missing cheques were described as "a seedy little trio" by Crown counsel at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Anthony Wilcken, for the prosecution, making his final speech to the jury in the three-week trial, said: "These men haunted West End night clubs and casinos and put their heads together to take advantage of the duke, a short-sighted old man with odd habits."

He added: "They took advantage of the duke's weaknesses and foibles of leaving things lying around in his own house."

Mr Wilcken said it was almost as if the Duke of Devonshire was being blamed. There has been a certain amount of public attack on his personal life and behaviour, totally without foundation in this trial.

Peter Callaghan, aged 26, a former manager of Leicester Street, Westminster, son of the Duke's former butler, denies stealing three cheques from a desk drawer in the duke's study at his home, in Chesterfield Street, Mayfair, in August 1983.

Heraklis "Ricky" Kouzoupis, aged 31, a businessman, of Hereford Road, Acton, and Andrew Shellis, aged 43, hairdresser, Northolt Road, Harrow, all of London, have pleaded not guilty to passing two of the cheques for £51,000 and trying to cash the third for a further £20,000. Their trial continues today.

NHS ignores order to expand consultants

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Health authorities have failed to act on a government instruction to increase the proportion of hospital consultants to junior doctors.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, said yesterday that an increase in the ratio of consultants could give better value for

money in the National Health Service and possibly save more than £100million a year. The quality of health care would also improve, he said.

But in spite of a Department of Health and Social Security instruction in February 1982, little had been done and Sir Gordon expressed disappointment that health authorities had not been made more progress in assessing the costs and benefits

A 1981 Commons select committee report, endorsed by the Government, said savings could be made by increasing the proportion of consultants to junior doctors because they made less use of services such as radiology and pathology, discharged patients earlier, and required fewer out-patient examinations.

Sir Gordon said the Government had been aware of the problem for about 25 years. He said "Measures to correct the imbalance have so far had little success."



Sir Gordon Downey: Disappointed.

Anti-hunt men sent for trial

Two members of the Hunt Retribution Squad were committed for trial yesterday charged with conspiracy to disinter the remains of the tenth Duke of Beaufort.

Terence Helsby, aged 22, of White Hart Lane, Tottenham, north-east London, and John Curtin, also aged 22, of Kingland Avenue, Coventry, each face three other charges in connection with the alleged incident on Boxing Day last year.

They are each further accused of stealing the wooden cross, criminally damaging the church near by at Badminton, near Bristol. Avon North magistrates had been told that the defendants planned to send the head of the Duke to Princess Anne.

Man killed in Kenya left clue for police

A British businessman was murdered in Kenya by robbers who beat him with a wooden club. But Mr Nigel Reddy left a clue for the police hunting his killers, an inquest was told yesterday.

He was taken to hospital where he regained consciousness briefly and murmured the name "Mung" or "Mwangi".

The inquest at Battersea, south-west London, was told that Mr Reddy, aged 69, a company director, was found unconscious on his bed in a pool of blood last November.

He was flown later to hospital in Wimbledon, south London, where he died four months afterwards of bronchial pneumonia due to a brain haemorrhage.

A verdict of unlawful killing was returned.



Papal protest: Dutch police restraining a youth who tried to drop his trousers as the Pope drove past in Maastricht. There were no disturbances like those in Utrecht.

US ships' Shanghai visit postponed

From Mary Lee Peking

The Chinese Foreign Minister yesterday confirmed that US Navy ships will not be visiting Shanghai this Saturday as scheduled, because "a number of issues remain outstanding". The statement added that

both sides were continuing discussions, thus pointing to a postponement rather than a cancellation of the visit by three destroyers. It did not elaborate on what the outstanding issues were, but American statements confirmed earlier Peking reports that the main snag concerned nuclear arms on the vessels.

Since the nuclear issue arose in Peking, however, there have been other indications that the timing of the port call was now awkward for the Chinese. Diplomats here point to the recent visit by Mr Hu to North Korea, which is said to have objected to the visit.

The Italian local elections

Midterm challenge brings Craxi coalition stability

From John Earle Rome

A feeling of relief and confidence for the future pervaded the five Italian government parties as the results came in yesterday from local elections which have been regarded as a midterm test for Signor Bettino Craxi's coalition.

Far from falling below 50 per cent, results from 15 of the 20 regional councils up for renewal showed the coalition parties were backed by 58.1 per cent of the electorate, against 53.9 per cent in last June's European elections.

A challenge by the Communists that they would overtake the Christian Democrats as the biggest individual party boomeranged. The Communists gained only 30.2 per cent of the regional vote, against the Christian Democrats' 35 per cent.

Running through the comments of the leaders of the five parties - Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals - was the belief that the coalition has gained in stability and the five-party formula is the only practical one for the future.

Formed 21 months ago, Signor Craxi's Government is already one of the most enduring in the history of the Italian republic, in which the average life of governments has been 10 months.

The coalition should thus be

Voting percentages of the main parties in the 15 regions

	Reg 85	Euro 84	Gen 83	Reg 1980
Chr Dem	35.0	33.0	32.6	36.8
Comm	30.2	34.5	31.2	31.5
Soc	13.3	11.3	11.4	12.7
Nov Soc It	6.5	6.3	6.6	5.9
Rep	4.0	N/A	5.2	3.0
Soc Dem	3.6	3.4	4.0	5.0
Lib	2.2	N/A	3.0	2.7

In the European elections of 1984 the Republicans and Liberals stood together, obtaining 6.2 per cent.

better equipped to overcome the hurdles ahead. On June 9 a national referendum, promoted by the Communists, is to be held on repealing a law passed last year which took 27,000 lire (about £11) of wage indication bonus out of monthly pay packets.

All the coalition parties are nominally against its repeal for the sake of combating inflation, but in practice none can be sure that its supporters will vote accordingly in the referendum.

With the local elections out of the way, the government is likely to make a final effort to avoid the referendum by seeking agreement with employers' organizations and trade unions.

The next hurdle will be the election in late June of the President of the republic, on the expiry of President Sandro Pertini's seven-year term.

The main threat to Signor Craxi's position, paradoxically,

may come from within the coalition. His tenure of office has seen the Socialist vote rise from 11.3 per cent at the European election to 13.3 per cent now. The Christian Democrats, whose recent decline is now halted, may at some stage decide to challenge him for the premiership, while retaining the five-party coalition formula.

Polling took place in 15 of the 20 regions, 86 of the 92 provinces, and more than 6,000 towns and villages.

Most results for local councils followed the general trend, except in Bolzano, capital of the largely German-speaking Alto Adige or South Tyrol. Here, backed by the Italian population, the neo-fascist Movimento Sociale Italiano has become the first party on a nationalistic anti-German ticket which may spell trouble between the two communities.

WHAT'S YELLOW AND BLUE AND READ ALL OVER?

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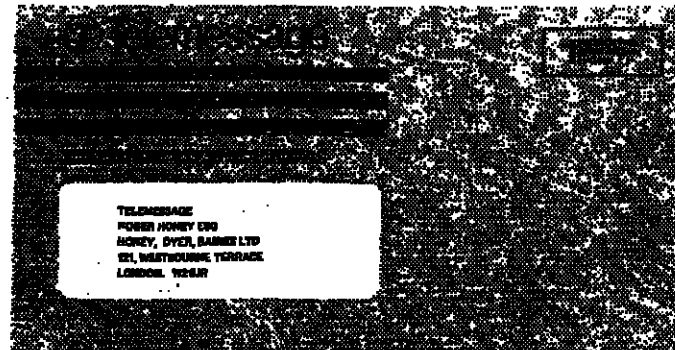
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Who administers justice when the law doesn't? Who looks after the victim's rights when he's accused, hunted and shot to pieces. Wrongly. What dark forces can you call on to right a wrong? On Tuesday at 9.00 Marlon's sister, Jocelyn Brando, plays a mother who believes in an eye for an eye.

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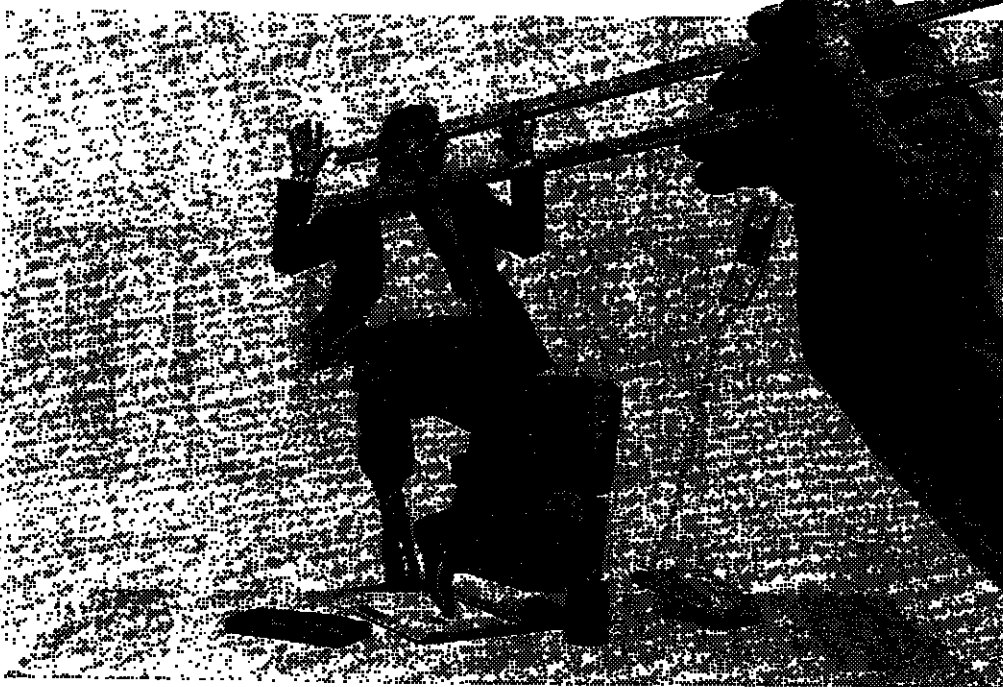
DIVERSE REPORTS

Tonight's report at 8.30 will open your eyes. A French TV crew takes a surreptitious look at the streets of Shanghai.

They discover a seamier side to the changing face of China.

That 'business deals' are replacing communist ideals. Micros are more popular than Mao. And a thriving black market is the best way to get anything.

If the government decides to pick up the new entrepreneurs, could they all be for the chop?



TERROR

What's it like behind the mask of terrorism?

Who pays the gunmen, while their victims pay with their lives?

And who - if anyone - gives orders in a reign of terror?

On Saturday night at 9.15 the horrifying truth about terrorism could cause you sleepless nights.



AN UNSUITABLE JOB FOR A WOMAN

What's it like to be a woman in a man's world?

Especially when it's the hard-nosed world of private-eyes.

In Friday night's film at 11.30, Pippa Guard plays a young woman who takes charge of a seedy London detective agency. And plunges into a black fairy tale of obsession, revenge and bloody murder.

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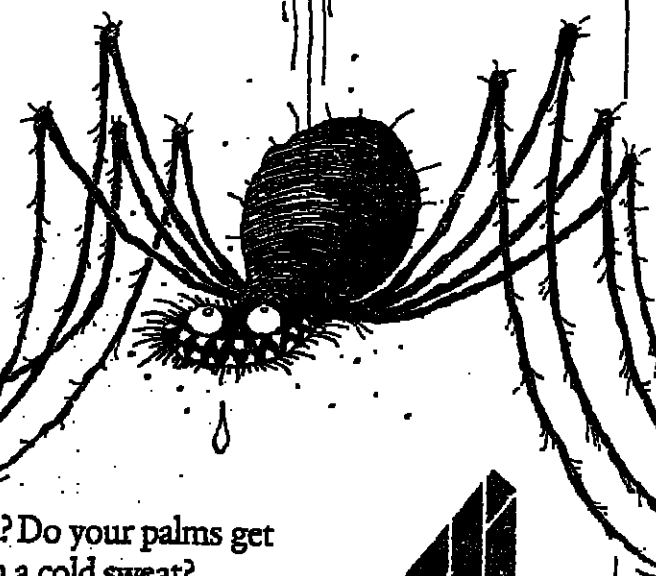
WEBS AND OTHER WONDERS

What do you fear most?

Is it something with eight black hairy legs crawling all over you?

Does this make your hair stand on end? Do your palms get hot and clammy? Do you break out in a cold sweat?

On Sunday at 7.15 Malcolm Penny looks at the spiders of the world and shows us how your nightmares survive.



KEEP YOUR EYE ON

4

صكنا من الرحمن

Politburo man ousted in party reckoning over murder of Polish priest

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Miroslaw Milewski, a hardline Marxist and erstwhile security police chief, was yesterday dropped from the Polish Communist party's Politburo in what was the final political reckoning for the murder by secret policemen of the Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko.

The party's Central Committee, meeting to discuss the problems of winning over the Polish intelligentsia, said that it had accepted "Mr Milewski's resignation" but gave no reason.

There was, in truth, no point in doing so. The move has been expected since the killing of Father Popieluszko last October. General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, relieved Mr Milewski of his role as party overseer of the police and security services, and a December session of the Central Committee criticised the lax party control of the security services.

As more and more secret police officers were weeded out of the Interior Ministry, so it seemed increasingly unlikely that Mr Milewski would survive

politically. But the dismissal was complicated by uncertainty over how Moscow would react to the displacement of a man so much in line with Soviet policies.

The recent backing by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, for Poland's economic reforms, and the rejection of the appeal of the four secret police officers who murdered Father Popieluszko cleared the way for the "resignation".

The appeal hearings again stated that there was no evidence of high-level involvement in the murder, allowing the Government to present the dismissal of Mr Milewski as a purely political move, rather than an attempt to implicate him in the crime.

The Politburo has thus lost a hardliner and shifted the balance of advantage even further towards those who agree in their hearts with the limited reforms of General Jaruzelski. The general has also taken the opportunity to promote to full Central Committee membership General Jozef Baryla, a close associate, and an expert

on matters of ideology, training and propaganda in the Army.

Mr Jozef Czyrek, a senior Politburo member, addressing the Central Committee, emphasized that the party must jolt the country's intellectuals out of their passivity and get them more involved in party work. At the same time, the authorities would also press hard against the "enemies of socialism".

As if to underline his point, the Gdansk public prosecutor announced that the trial of Mr Adam Michnik, the dissident historian, and two Solidarity activists, Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Mr Bogdan Lis, would begin on May 23. Police have also searched the flat of a dissident journalist, Mr Stefan Bratkowski, and after finding a receipt for hard currency have charged him with currency offences.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, yesterday confirmed reports that a man has confessed to having been ordered to kill Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader. The man was under arrest, he said.



Top-level contact: Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, before their talks at the Soviet Embassy in Vienna yesterday. The meeting lasted longer than expected.

Reagan tries to stay inside limits of Salt 2

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration is considering several options for keeping down the number of land and sea-based intercontinental nuclear missiles to comply with limits set by the unratified Salt 2 pact, which expires at the end of the year.

President Reagan is under considerable congressional pressure not to abandon the limits. Two Republican and two Democratic senators have written to him saying that abandoning the limits would "cast a pall over the arms talks in Geneva, seriously damage important US foreign policy interests" and end superpower restraint on deployment.

Administration officials are considering whether to put an older Poseidon submarine in dry dock in an attempt to avoid direct violation of the 1979 pact, which was never ratified by the Senate.

Another option is to delay the sea trials which are due to begin in September of the USS Alaska, a new Trident submarine with 24 intercontinental missiles. Those trials would put the US 14 missiles above the Salt 2 limit of 1,200 multi-warhead missiles overall.

The senators appealed to President Reagan to abide by the limits after statements from the President and Mr Richard Perle, Assistant Defence Secretary, questioning whether the US should continue observing the pact.

The options have a distinctly temporary flavour. For example, if the Poseidon is taken out of service, its firing tubes might not be dismantled, allowing it to be redeployed with nuclear missiles at short notice.

WHO says a million in contact with Aids

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Up to a million people can be assumed to have been in contact with the virus of Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) which, the World Health Organization says, appears to be a world public health problem.

The estimated contacts are 80,000 in Europe, perhaps 10 times as many in the United States and, on the basis of limited surveys, a rapidly rising total in Central and East African countries.

These indications are given in the latest WHO survey, which underlines that transmission in Africa seems to be essentially heterosexual, as almost 50 per cent of cases are women. Elsewhere, more than 70 per cent have been in male homosexuals or intravenous drug addicts using unsterilized needles.

The overall estimate includes carriers, all those who will develop the disease over the incubation period of from 12 months (for children) up to five years, and many people in whom the virus may remain latent, without pathogenic symptoms in the lymph cells.

The actual number of Aids cases definitely diagnosed to date is, of course, much less: 12,000 in the US and 900 in Europe.

In the US and Europe, the number of cases doubled every six months up to 1983 and is now doubling every year. WHO says there are "great hopes in researches which may result in the availability of an Aetiological treatment". On the basis of current research, it estimates that an effective vaccine may still be five years away.

Kohl throws down gauntlet to EEC

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Chancellor Kohl yesterday flung down the gauntlet to his EEC partners, challenging them to let West Germany have its way on this year's farm price agreement or risk upsetting the political balance of the Community.

In an angry message to M Jacques Delors, the Commission president, the chancellor said: "You have to learn it is not possible to put one of the most important member states under such pressure."

He gave his full backing to Herr Ignaz Kiechle, his Agriculture Minister, who has said he is prepared to use a veto rather than accept any form of price cut for cereal farmers. Herr Kiechle repeated this threat vehemently yesterday as agriculture ministers resumed their seemingly hopeless search for a price settlement.

"We cannot agree to a policy which will force our farmers to lose out because of the pressure for price cuts," he said, rejecting

out of hand the latest compromise proposals from the Commission, which suggest cereal price cuts of just 2 per cent rather than the 3.6 per cent reduction originally asked for.

The political importance of the quarrel is that until now West Germany has always refused to accept that any country has the right of veto. Were Herr Kiechle to use it, a substantial part of the intense argument on the subject in the Community would certainly collapse. The mere threat of using it has been damaging enough.

Herr Rudi Arndt, leader of the Socialist group in the European Parliament, described the position of his country's government as scandalous. "All the statements of the federal government about European union have been reduced to lies. The movement towards European union has now been torpedoed."

Spain, which strongly supports the veto right, would certainly back West Germany if it refused to accept a vote, in marked contrast to what happened in 1982, when West Germany joined the majority in voting Britain down when it declared it had a vital national interest at stake in the agriculture price fixing that year.

Ministers were spending the night trying to end the impasse, against a warning from European farmers' organizations that "the patience of our farmers has its limits and that these limits have been reached". Farmers were ready to demonstrate their "bitterness, disappointment and anger in full force".

Danish MPs reject co-operation on Star Wars

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

The Danish Parliament yesterday voted against Danish involvement in any form of co-operation in research connected with the US "star wars" strategy. After a long parliamentary debate, a motion put forward by the Opposition Social Democrats against Danish involve-

ment was passed by 64 votes to four with 50 abstentions.

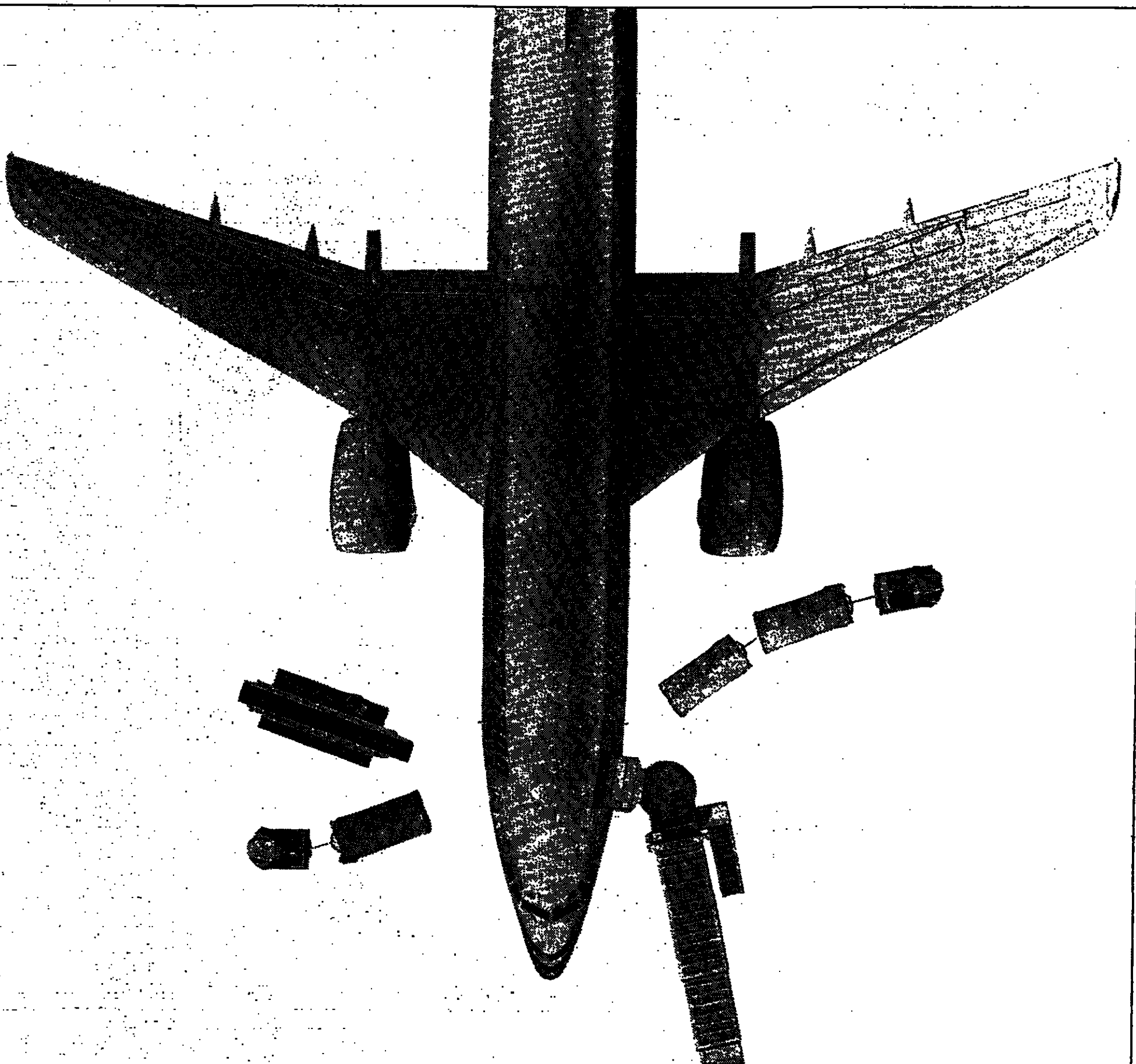
● LONDON: Britain remains sceptical about the French Eureka proposal to co-ordinate European scientific research to counter American dominance over high technology (Henry Stanhope writes). This is despite a visit here last week by a high-powered

French team, including representatives from the Elysée Palace.

They were met by an equally high-level group of Whitehall officials from the Foreign Office, Cabinet Office, Ministry of Defence, Department of Education and Science and Science and Engineering Research Council.

The confidential session was said to be very much an exploratory one and is expected to be followed by more talks.

Sources discount suggestions that Eureka is a French reply to President Reagan's "Star Wars". The French are taking the view that participation in SDI does not exclude co-operation in Eureka.



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sees it, and is moving fast to put this new technology into service. It's a perfect fit with the other members of the Boeing family—the 747, the 767 and the 757.

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Doubts cast on A-test evidence

From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

An eminent Australian nuclear physicist has cast doubts on much of the evidence given to the Royal Commission investigating British nuclear tests in Australia.

Professor Sir Ernest Titterton, the official Australian Government observer at the British tests in the 1950s, told the Royal Commission yesterday that he did not believe earlier evidence that it was not always possible to clear the test site of local Aborigines.

Sir Ernest said after the hearing that even if it was true people in the irradiated areas would not have suffered. "What has happened has been that the measurements that were made at the time have been reassessed, and they are quite real; they are far below the levels at which there could be any real danger to the population, even though there have been minor changes to what is now considered to be proper for the whole population of the country."

Asked if the tests would have been conducted very differently if they were conducted today, Sir Ernest said there would have been small differences. "That's not a criticism of the tests, it's just that it's now 1985 instead of 1952."

He denied the tests were carried out in an unsophisticated way. "They were carried out at a very high level of sophistication, but it was a level of sophistication applicable to the time and the technology that was available."

González may ignore Nato vote

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Government would ignore a referendum verdict in favour of quitting Nato if there was a low turnout. Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, has indicated.

He revealed this new position to Spanish journalists accompanying him on Monday as he flew to Sweden for an official visit.

He did not say precisely what the turnout would have to be, but suggested over 50 per cent.

This would counter the probable abstention by supporters of Señor Manuel Fraga, the Opposition Leader, who, while wanting Spain to integrate fully into Nato, has till now refused, for party reasons, to come to the aid of the Government by recommending a "yes" vote in the referendum.

Señor González, during President Reagan's visit last week, promised that Spain would remain a member of Nato. The Prime Minister now thinks that, with EEC membership a near certainty, many Spaniards might resolve their uncertainties about Nato simply by staying away from the referendum.

The Government has promised to consult the people next spring. Señor González also said that if there was doubt about the outcome, the Government would propose resolving the issue at the general election due later next year. Those determined to get Spain out of Nato could always vote for the Communists or other tiny left-wing groups.

Giscard blocks Bokassa

Paris (AFP) - The former French President Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has won a court action to halt publication of a book by the deposed Central African ruler, Jean-Bédel Bokassa, who was overthrown in a French-backed coup.

A Paris court yesterday upheld a civil action by M Giscard d'Estaing seeking to expurgate passages from the book.

The book, entitled *Ma Vérité* (My Truth), was to have been released by the Carrère publishing company here.

Police torture alleged after Indian bomb suspect dies

Delhi (Reuters) - A key suspect in the recent spate of Indian bombings has died in police custody, leading to allegations in several Indian newspapers yesterday that he was tortured.

The Press Trust of India said Mohinder Singh Khalsi died in a Delhi hospital on Monday afternoon after being injured in a scuffle with police who arrested him on Sunday. The agency gave no other details, but said a magistrate had been ordered to conduct an inquest into his death.

Singh was one of three Sikh suspects arrested by police after bomb attacks on Friday and Saturday which killed at least 86 people.

The *Indian Express* said he suffered only minor injuries in the scuffle during his arrest. He was able to walk after treatment at Lohia hospital in Delhi on the day of his arrest, it said.

The newspaper quoted hospital reports as saying Singh had bruised eyes and serious injuries all over his body. "The suspect was apparently tortured to death," the paper said. It added that the two other suspects arrested with Singh came to court in "an apparently critical condition".

"Most doctors at Lohia hospital were convinced that Mohinder Singh had died due to police torture," the *Statesman* newspaper said.

Police, meanwhile, said they recovered enough explosives to make 400 transistor bombs

from the Delhi home of one of the suspects, a Sikh lawyer. They also found lead casings, wires and batteries needed to make booby-trap bombs in the house.

"This kind of ammunition in the hands of the terrorists could have made a Beirut out of Delhi," the *Indian Express* quoted one police officer as saying.

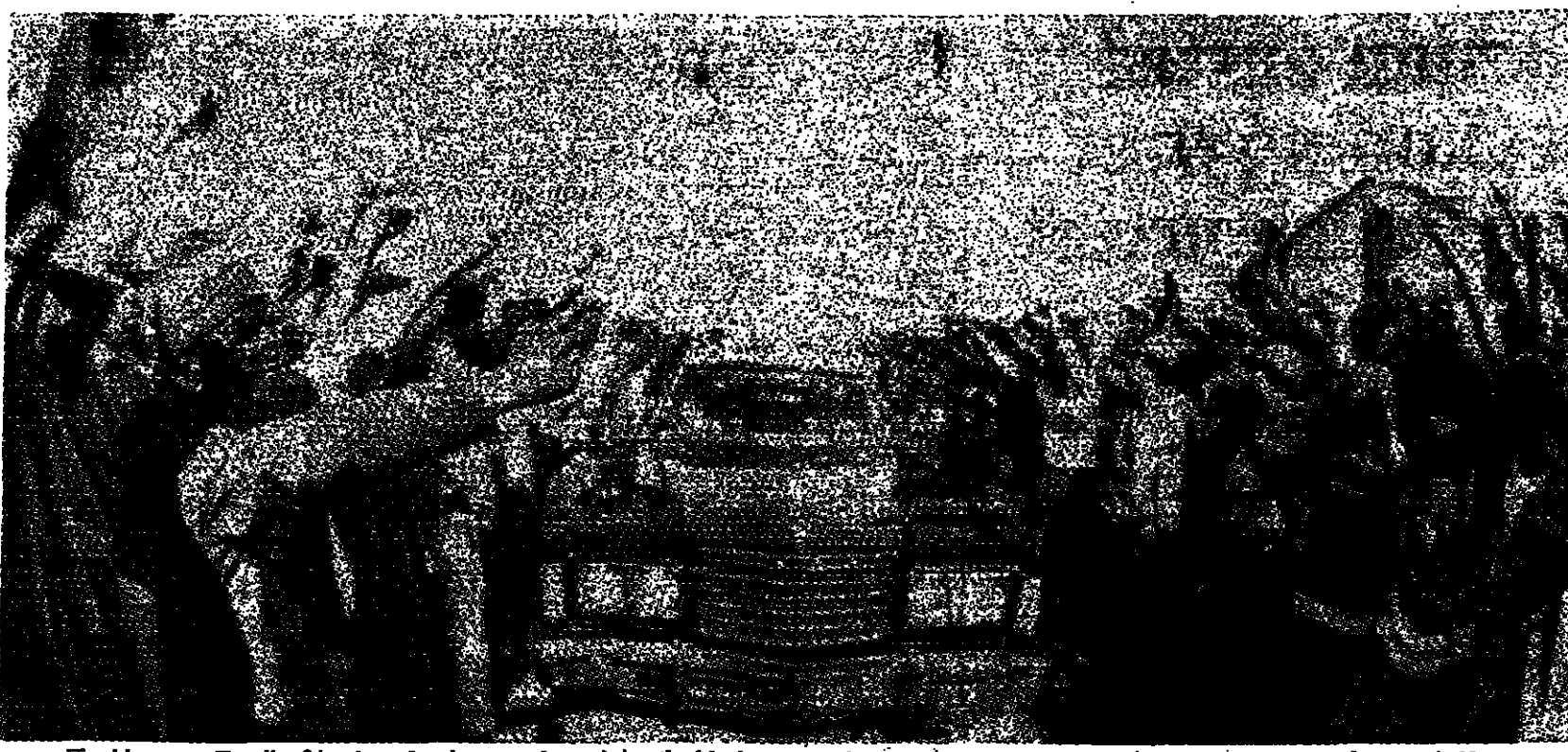
The weekend bomb attacks in Delhi were mostly booby-trapped transistors which exploded when picked up by passersby.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, decided yesterday to go ahead with a visit to the United States despite demands in Parliament to cancel the trip because of a Sikh extremist plot to kill him there.

In Washington, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said five Sikhs had been arrested and two more were being sought on charges of planning to kill Mr Gandhi during his US visit from June 12 to 15. Officials said the Sikhs also planned widespread guerrilla attacks in the Transvaal, however, did not observe a call by trade union leaders to take the day off to attend the funeral. A spokesman for the Associated Chambers

of Commerce estimated that 90 per cent of the black labour force reported for work as usual. There also appeared to have been a very limited response from blacks elsewhere in the country to a suggestion that they should stop work for two hours in the middle of the day. In some cases workers were granted extended lunch breaks so that they could attend commemorative prayer meetings.

Most employers had made clear that they would dock the pay of workers who



Final journey: Family, friends and union members giving the black power salute yesterday as Mr Raditsela's body is taken to the cemetery

Strike call fails as blacks bury union chief

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

About 10,000 people gathered in the black township of Tsakane on the East Rand yesterday to bury Mr Andries Raditsela, the trade union official who died on May 6 from head injuries after being in police custody.

The vast majority of black workers in the Transvaal, however, did not observe a call by trade union leaders to take the day off to attend the funeral. A spokesman for the Associated Chambers

of Commerce estimated that 90 per cent of the black labour force reported for work as usual.

There also appeared to have been a very limited response from blacks elsewhere in the country to a suggestion that they should stop work for two hours in the middle of the day. In some cases workers were granted extended lunch breaks so that they could attend commemorative prayer meetings.

Most employers had made clear that they would dock the pay of workers who

absented themselves, and this appears to have been the main reason for the poor response to the stayaway call at a time of high unemployment and recession.

A spokesman for Anglo American, South Africa's biggest mining house, reported isolated incidents of miners' sympathy strikes.

The funeral of Mr Raditsela took place in the Methodist church in Tsakane, 25 miles east of Johannesburg.

Early yesterday three bombs went off

in the "white" town of Brakpan near by, at the police station, the magistrates' court and the commissioner's court, which handles offences against the hated "pass laws" which control the movement of blacks out side the tribal reserves. No one was injured.

● GABORONE: A car bomb yesterday killed a South African political refugee here. Botswana police said (Reuters reports). They declined to name the victim, saying only that he lived near the scene of the explosion.

Berri hints Gemayel should go

From Robert Fisk Beirut

With no prospect of an immediate summit between President Gemayel of Lebanon and President Assad of Syria Muslim leaders in Beirut are again suggesting that Mr Gemayel might have to resign his office and that the Lebanese national covenant - under which Christians always hold the presidency - might have to be changed.

Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim Amal leader, who is also a member of Mr Gemayel's broken Cabinet, has said that after the military defeats suffered by the Christian Phalangists, "there is a big chance now, especially for the people, to change many things in Lebanon".

"I am fighting for a new Lebanon and I think Syria is supposed to help us."

The reported violence took place after about 25,000 of the illegal immigrants broke out of the camp at Jekka, near Lagos airport and headed for the border in 400 vehicles.

Nigeria closed its land borders on Friday, after a one-hour opening aimed at allowing

Fleeing aliens 'shot in Nigeria'

Cotonou, Benin (AFP) -

Twenty-five illegal immigrants to Nigeria died on Monday when troops opened fire as they tried to break through the country's border with Benin, an informed source said yesterday.

The source said 15 people died when Nigerian troops fired at their vehicles at Seme, a border crossing west of Lagos, and 10 other people were trampled to death or suffocated in the crowd. Witnesses said the toll could be much higher as bodies remained in several vehicles blocked at the border.

Officials in Lagos denied the report, saying it contained "no truth whatsoever".

The reported violence took place after about 25,000 of the illegal immigrants broke out of the camp at Jekka, near Lagos airport and headed for the border in 400 vehicles.

Nigeria closed its land borders on Friday, after a one-hour opening aimed at allowing

about 700,000 evicted aliens, including an estimated 300,000 Ghanaians, to depart. However, many of the immigrants were unable to complete in the time the formalities to leave, which included searches by Nigerian officials for illicit goods. The remaining aliens were taken to Jekka pending repatriation by sea.

There was violence at the camp on Monday before the detained aliens made a break for the border. Many of them had reportedly not eaten for several days and were desperate to be allowed to return home.

Some refugees who succeeded on crossing the border into Benin said they had been robbed of their possessions by Nigerian troops, and others said young Ghanaian women had been raped by the soldiers.

● LAGOS: Illegal immigrants ordered out of Nigeria but stranded when land borders

were closed last week were being sent home yesterday by ship, a police official said (Reuters reports).

Mr Abdullahi Jiki, the police chief at the ports, said that four ships had left on Sunday and Monday, two were due out yesterday and he hoped three more would leave today. He said 4,500 people left by sea on Monday and yesterday's target was 6,000.

Press accused Warsaw (Reuters) - Poland accused unidentified Western reporters of "engaging in activities which border on spying" and of fomenting subversion. The government spokesman, Mr Jerzy Urban, said correspondents who maintained contacts with leaders of the opposition "acted as a conduit of information between Poland and the West about illegal activities".

Seveso five win their appeals Milan (AFP) - A Milan court of appeals, overturning the sentences by a lower court yesterday acquitted all five defendants of the most severe charges - negligence and malicious failure to take safety measures - in connection with the 1976 Dioxin leakage disaster in Seveso.

The court convicted two of the five defendants, Jörg Anton Sambeth and Herwig von Zwieler, both West Germans - of negligence and sentenced them to suspended prison terms. At the time of the incident Herr von Zwieler was the technical director of Icmessa, the chemical company based in Seveso. Sambeth was a technical director of Givaudan, the Swiss parent company of Icmessa.

The appeals court, after several hours of deliberations, dropped all charges against Mr Guy Waldvogel, the Swiss chairman of Icmessa, Mr Fritz Mäder, Swiss head of planning of the firm, and Signor Giordano Radice, the Italian technical director of Icmessa.

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The district attorney alleges that John Frederick Kappeler, aged 55, turned off a

Fingerprints irk Japan's foreigners

From David Watts Tokyo

A cosmetic change in Japan's fingerprinting of foreign residents has done nothing to stem the tide of protest against the procedure.

Under a change of rules, foreigners will use a dab of colourless chemical to record an index fingerprint on their alien registration cards rather than using ink and rotating the finger through 180 degrees.

The modification, approved by the Cabinet yesterday at the suggestion of the Justice Ministry, prompted immediate protests from the Korean residents' association, local government workers and Mr Saburo Ito, the Mayor of Kawasaki and leader of one of 43 local authorities which refuse to index foreigners who refuse fingerprinting.

For years foreigners resident in Japan have been campaigning against a system which they say not only violates their human rights but also treats them as though they are criminals. Most affected are the more than 600,000 Koreans who live in Japan, many of whom were born here but all of whom must carry identity cards bearing their fingerprints.

Yesterday's announcement can only spur on a campaign in South Korea to complete a one million name petition calling for the abolition of fingerprinting.

When President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea paid a visit last autumn he called on the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, to abolish the system.

Once the new measures come into force on July 1 there will be a three-month grace period to allow refusors to comply after which the Government will not only prosecute but also stop issuing alien registration cards to foreigners refusing to be fingerprinted.

The Government is clearly trying to head off mass civil disobedience during the summer when 370,000 foreigners are due to renew their registration cards. It remains to be seen whether the hard line pays off.

Colombia battle Cali, Colombia (AP) - Left wing guerrillas using shoulder-launched rockets brought down an army helicopter in heavy fighting over the weekend near Buga that left 33 dead. The Defence Ministry said. The clash was the fiercest since the truce agreed last year.

Correction Allan Octavian Hume was the founder and first general secretary of the Indian National Congress, not the first president, as reported from Delhi on May 4.

Russians accused of killing villagers

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

As many as 1,000 villagers have been killed by Soviet armed forces in eastern Afghanistan, according to Western diplomats reporting in Delhi yesterday.

The diplomats said they had late confirmation of a big Soviet push in Laghman province in mid-March, which involved a sweep through 12 villages.

In each of them about 100 people were killed. Dead bodies were left littering the ruins, and houses were looted and burned. Survivors set up a tented encampment at Surkhakhan, the diplomats said.

The villages involved are in the southern Khargha district of the province and straddle the Kabul and Surkha river across the Jalalabad Road.

Three members of the Central Committee of the Afghan ruling party were in Jalalabad as the operation was about to start, diplomats said. One had asked the Soviet commander if Afghan troops could be included in the sweep, hoping thereby to diminish the risk of a massacre. The Russian general in charge had refused.

Later, the surviving villagers complained to the committee members about the massacres

and were told it was a punishment for the help they were supplying to Mujahidin guerrillas. They were, however, given permission to revisit their homes to bury the dead.

Though the Mujahidin were successfully swept out of the area, a key route from the Pakistan border to Kabul, they soon returned, the diplomats said, and a second operation was carried out a week later, when many civilians were again killed.

● ISLAMABAD: The Soviet Ambassador here said that Pakistani troops were involved in an Afghan guerrilla arms depot explosion that killed two dozen Soviet and Afghan soldiers being held prisoner there (Reuters reports).

Mr Vitaly Smirnov, who delivered a protest note to President Zia ul-Haq on Saturday, said the incident illustrated what he described as Pakistan's growing role in the guerrillas' fight against the Kabul Government.

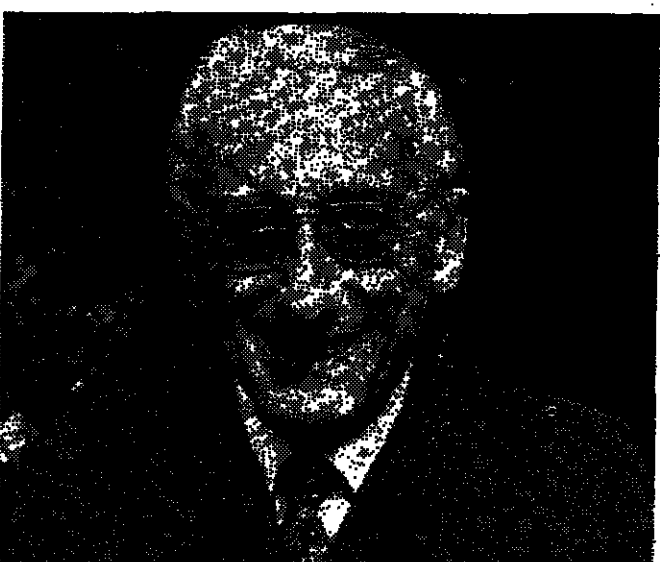
Afghan and Pakistani sources said the captured soldiers seized the arms depot in a guerrilla training centre 15 miles south of Peshawar to demand political asylum in the West.

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Jacques Cousteau: Project to save shipping fuel

Cousteau's 2 1/2-year trip

La Rochelle (AP) - France's celebrated underwater explorer, Commander Jacques Cousteau,

74, set sail from here for New York on Monday night on the first leg of a round-the-world voyage in his revolutionary, partially wind-powered vessel, Alcione, to press home his project to save fuel for merchant shipping. He will return to France in 1988 after two-and-a-half years.

On June 23 President Reagan will present him with the highest US civilian award, the Medal of Freedom, for his contributions to science and education.

Commander Cousteau will then continue the voyage in his 65-ton Alcione, which is powered by two diesels and

wind turbines, each built in the form of a 30ft high stack.

He will travel around Cape Horn to Japan, and then to the Bikini and Eniwetok atolls in the Pacific, to measure residual radioactivity dating from the first American atomic bomb test.

He said before he sailed: "For two-and-a-half years we will show the world a perfected maritime fuel-saving method invented and perfected in France."

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150 من الامارات

Amtrak ushers in age of the train after escaping Reagan axe

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

America's inter-city train system has been saved from overnight obliteration. Had the White House got its way, the entire Amtrak long-distance passenger service would have ceased operations on September 30, probably for good.

The proposal was one of the more stunning measures advocated by President Reagan in his budget. The Senate has thrown it out after an enormous campaign of opposition from rural America and the chronically congested north-east.

Mr Reagan's plan was all the more astonishing because there would have been no phased closure, no time for an orderly demise of a once great system already emasculated by the motor car. Amtrak would have received not a penny more in life-saving subsidies.

The Senate decided to continue Amtrak's annual subsidy of \$684 million (£570 million) for the financial year beginning October 1, but to reduce it by increments to almost half that by 1988. Amtrak will survive. It is leaner, fitter and increasingly competitive with airlines. On the New York-Washington link,

for example, it carries a remarkable 18,000 people daily, far more than the airlines.

President Reagan and others argued that the long-distance American railroad was an expensive anachronism. Only 15 years ago America had only 450 inter-city trains left and 100 of those were in the process of being discontinued. Some great romantic names disappeared: the Denver and Rio Grande, Western, the Rock Island, the Southern.

Amtrak came into being in 1971. Now it is the only inter-city rail passenger carrier in the country. Trains have made an astonishing comeback. After years of anguish, Amtrak has made the train a feasible long-distance option once more.

In rural America the impact of President Reagan's plan would have been staggering. In some areas there is not an airport or bus route for several hundred miles. In the north-east, the very thought of millions more travellers jacking the overcrowded airports and highways sent shudders through the region. Amtrak argued convincingly that billions of dollars would need to

be invested in airport and highway construction.

That message was all the more convincing to congressmen who see National Airport in Washington, so absurdly overcrowded, that local radio stations frequently announce: "Do not drive to National Airport. No more parking spaces will be available today."

Amtrak's subsidies amount to \$34 each year for every passenger. One argued that only one out of every two passengers, but in evidence to senators, Amtrak's management argued that by 1986 at least 60 per cent of costs would be met through revenues.

Amtrak has, finally, a clear objective after arguments between those who wanted 150 mph "trains of the future" and those who called for restoration of "great long-distance" name trains of the past. Nobody advocated that it should be a commuter service. It has become an increasingly attractive compromise, neither especially fast nor particularly glamorous. But it is steadily building a sound and reliable reputation. It looks as though it will be around for quite a time.

Catching up with the front-runners of Asia

Michael Hamlyn reports from Delhi. In this second of two articles, on the Indian Government's economic policies.

A drive down the narrow strip of tarmac that marks one of India's principal highways illuminates a number of the economic problems the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, contemplates as he considers the effects of his first six months in office.

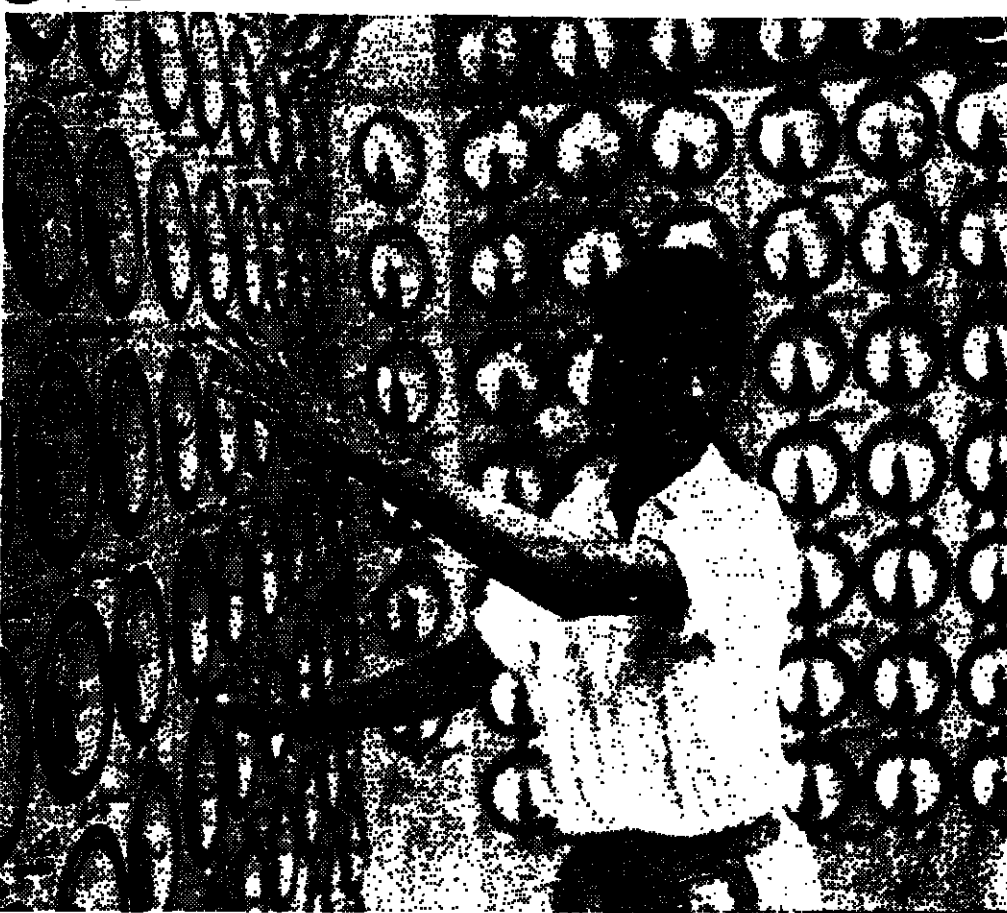
At each border, moving from the Delhi territory into Uttar Pradesh state, or from Uttar Pradesh into Rajasthan, or even from one district to another within one of the states, a barrier is placed across the road. On each side of it long queues of lorries form,

their drivers and their helpers standing in the shade of their vehicles smoking *Birle* (Indian) cigarettes made of a rolled up leaf with a shaking of tobacco inside).

This is an octroi post where the local authorities collect taxes on all forms of merchandise that pass across the border. It is essentially the same system of taxation that our school history books told us caused the French Revolution. It takes time to collect or avoid, and it adds to the cost of everything.

A little further down the road a line of emerging camels soft-foot it along, pulling carts laden with merchandise for the bazaar of Delhi.

"No country that still uses camels for delivering its goods is going to take the place of Japan or Taiwan or South Korea or Singapore," a cynical observer said. But catching up with the economic front-runners of Asia is exactly the task that Mr



Into the future: An engineer checks fuel rod gauges on an Indian nuclear reactor - but, out on the roads, camels are still used to transport goods.

Gandhi has set himself. It is a task which, at first impression, seems to have embarked on well. Indeed this is the area of government in which he appears to be making the greatest change from the policies he inherited from his mother, the assassinated Mrs Indira Gandhi.

In substance, Mrs Gandhi was, however, already moving along a similar path. Since the death of her younger son Sanjay, she had been able to make more sensible appointments of senior civil servants and ministers, and they said she

began the process of liberalization of trade and industry which her older son Rajiv has now taken up so enthusiastically.

"You were never quite certain with his mother, who didn't really understand economics," a trade expert said, "whether or not a bad monsoon would cause her to move to some rubbishy populist policy."

But Mr Gandhi and his ministers have made it clear that his policies are here to stay; and so far the policies he is enacting, the changes that he is making in the industrial

and taxation structure of the country, are winning nothing but praise from Western observers.

Though there are those who would wish him to move faster, there are also those who fear that if he opens Indian industry too far to the chill winds of external competition he might end up by killing it instead of curing its ills of inefficiency, and lack of productivity, salesmanship, or dynamism.

Observers have praised in particular two realistic appointments - Mr V. P. Singh as Finance Minister, and Mr Man

Mohan Singh as head of the Planning Commission. The budget produced by Mr V. P. Singh has won praise from the middle classes and industrialists, though the ensuing increase in the cost of daily produce has aroused warnings that all may not be sweetness and light in the future.

The Government's action in liberalizing monopolies and restricting regulations so that they apply only to companies above \$65 million instead of \$13 million, has won praise.

"He has evidently got the message that big does not necessarily mean bad," said a banker.

Manufacturing licences have been simplified so that if you have permission to make a thousand egg-timers you may now make a trillion. They have been broad-banded so that if you make lorries you can make anything on four wheels - tractors, vans or domestic cars. One-window techniques have been introduced to prevent the constant trailing from office to office in search of an appropriate approval signature.

Customs duties have been reduced on a swathe of electronic and computer goods.

There are still bottlenecks and drawbacks in the Indian system. Managerial talent is in short supply. And there is still a long way to go before the tax structure can be so reorganized that the octroi can disappear and the transport system speeded up so that the camel becomes redundant.

Mr Gandhi's reforming programme on which he has scarcely embarked will take years to produce its full effect. Well-wishers hope that the cost-of-living protests, or the agitation from inefficient industries thrown out of business by more dynamic competition will not unsaddle him.

"He deserves a good monsoon this year, he really does," said a western diplomat.

Concluded

Favours for 'graduate mums' end

Singapore (Reuters) - Singapore announced yesterday it would end a policy giving priority school admission for children of graduate mothers as part of a scheme to increase the island's talents pool.

The Minister of Education, Mr Tony Tan, told Parliament that the Cabinet had accepted his recommendation to drop the "graduate mum" policy which had created a public uproar. The policy, initiated by the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, was generally blamed for a drastic reduction in the share of votes for the ruling People's Action Party at the elections last December.

Mr Lee had wanted the scheme as an incentive to graduate mothers to produce more children. He said less educated Singapore women were producing double the number of children of university graduates.

Salvador rebels in peace initiative

From John Carlin, Mexico City

After weeks of rumour and speculation surrounding the time and venue of the long-awaited third round of peace talks in El Salvador, the rebels have taken the initiative and put forward a concrete proposal.

At a news conference here on Monday, a senior member of a Salvadoran guerrilla delegation said a letter had been sent to President Jose Napoleon Duarte proposing a preliminary, private meeting between rebel and Government representatives in San Salvador on May 30 and 31. This should then be followed by top-level peace talks on June 15 in the town of Panama, a guerrilla stronghold in the north-east of the country.

The delegation is headed by Dr Guillermo Ungo, the president of the guerrillas' political wing, the Democratic Revolutionary Front. Dr Ungo, a quiet, scholarly man in a suit

and tie, accused President Duarte of irresponsibility in suggesting recently that an agreement had already been reached for a third meeting.

Aware of the urgency among most Salvadorans for a peaceful solution to the civil war, Dr Ungo said El Salvador's American-backed Government should not treat the dialogue as "a game" but as something "important and necessary".

However, in private conversations in the past month, both rebel and Government representatives have indicated that divisions are too wide for much progress to be made through dialogue.

A Salvadoran guerrilla leader interviewed earlier this month in Cuba acknowledged that the best possible result of another meeting would be simply to ensure the channels of communication between the two sides are kept open.

Contra base sealed off as Hondurans flee fighting

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Many people have fled their homes in Honduras near the border with Nicaragua to escape fighting between Nicaraguan troops and anti-Sandinista Contras.

The Honduran Army, which has been drawn into the fighting, has sealed the entire area surrounding the main Contra base camp at the village of Las Vegas, about five miles inside Honduran territory.

Peasants leaving the sealed area say all the villages inside have been abandoned with the exception of Trojes where relief

operations have been set up. The Red Cross says about 800 are in their care, but the Mayor of Trojes told one correspondent who managed to get beyond the checkpoint that the number was twice as high.

A Honduran newspaper said people had also fled other border areas.

There are no reliable reports of the number of Nicaraguan troops and rebels killed in the latest fighting but refugees from the village of Arenales, the last hamlet before the Las Vegas camp, said they had seen flocks

of vultures circling in the sky. The Honduran Army mobilized reinforcements to the border last week, accusing Sandinista troops of having crossed into Honduras in pursuit of Contras.

● PARIS: The US trade embargo against Nicaragua is doomed to fail because it lacks international support, President Daniel Ortega has forecast after talks with French leaders (Reuters reports).

"The embargo is damaging the Nicaraguan economy in the short term, it is damaging the

health and life of the Nicaraguan people," Señor Ortega told a news conference here.

"But from the moment the US embargo lacked international support it was condemned to fail."

"We found in President Mitterrand a disposition to strive towards peace in Central America, and... a willingness to step up efforts to promote economic co-operation with Nicaragua at a moment when this increased US aggression is being declared in the economic field."

Chinese give up making presents of giant pandas

Peking. - China has announced that it will no longer present giant pandas to other countries as a token of its friendship (Mary Lee writes).

The announcement, in an article in the latest edition of the official *Peking Review* said this move is to help save the giant panda from extinction since it is threatened with starvation in its natural habitat in central China.

China has given 23 giant pandas to nine countries.

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What's more, from Kennedy, Newark and LaGuardia Airports, there are more flights, and more low-fare flights to the rest of America than from any other US gateway. And that's just the beginning...

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Start at the top - downtown

New York is a big place. So, if you're unsure about where to begin, this ad will help you get started.

Starting downtown - at the World Trade Center, with a

bird's-eye view of the entire New York/New Jersey area. In just 58 seconds, an amazing elevator will whisk you to the top of the tallest twin towers in the world. (Admission is \$2.45, \$1.25 for children under 12.) From the open air promenade, above the 110th floor, you'll enjoy a breathtaking view - at a quarter of a mile high.

If you get hungry, the World Trade Center has twelve restaurants to choose from. Including the *Hors d'Oeuvres at Windows on the World*, serving drinks.

elegant snacks and the same great view. Live music and dancing start at 7:30 p.m. - jackets are required.



A taste of the world

Why, in downtown Manhattan alone, there's a whole world of international cuisines. Walk over to the historic South Street Seaport for a hunch of fresh seafood. Or, here's another idea: take a trip to Mott Street in Chinatown and indulge in heaping platters of steaming Oriental specialties - for less than \$12 a person.

Afterwards, stroll over a few blocks to Little Italy - for *appetiti*, *cannoli* and *cappuccino*, for dessert. And if that doesn't appeal to you, there's a whole city of cuisines to explore. From Mexican, Tibetan, and Japanese, to Creole, Portuguese, Russian, and Scandinavian - even American.



Symbol of a city

New York City is famous for its many skyscrapers - but perhaps most famous for the Empire State Building. Once the tallest building in the world, it still remains a beacon of "the city of dreams." The Observation Deck opens every day at 9:30 a.m. and closes at 11:00 p.m. Admission is just \$2.25 - \$1.25 for children under 12. Try to get there early.

Shop your way uptown

A block or two west of the Empire State Building are two of New York's most famous stores: *Macy's* and *Gimbels*. Stop in. Then take a stroll up Fifth Avenue, past the classic windows of *B. Altman* and *Lord & Taylor* (Up at 42nd Street, say hello to *Patience* and *Fortitude* - the famous lions that guard the New York Public Library). *Saks Fifth Avenue* is at 49th Street - just across from Rockefeller Center, where you can catch your breath and maybe some lunch - surrounded by lush gardens and glittering skyscrapers. Farther uptown are *Cartier*, *Gucci*, *Staub*, *Glass*, *Tiffany's* - and *Bergdorf Goodman*, just across from Central Park, where horse-drawn carriages stand ready for hire.

The stars on Broadway

A trip to New York wouldn't be complete without taking in a Broadway show. Purchase tickets at the box office or through ticket



brokers in the Times Square Area. Or, on the day of the performance, you can get half-price tickets at the TKTS office, at 46th & Broadway. It opens at 3:00 p.m. daily for evening performances, noon for matinees - but get there an hour earlier for best choice of shows.

New Jersey's winning entertainment

Right across the Hudson River, is New Jersey - home of Atlantic City - America's newest casino city. Getting there is easy. Buses leave from the Port Authority Bus Terminal (at 8th Ave. & 42nd St.) every hour on the hour - from 12 noon till 10 p.m., every



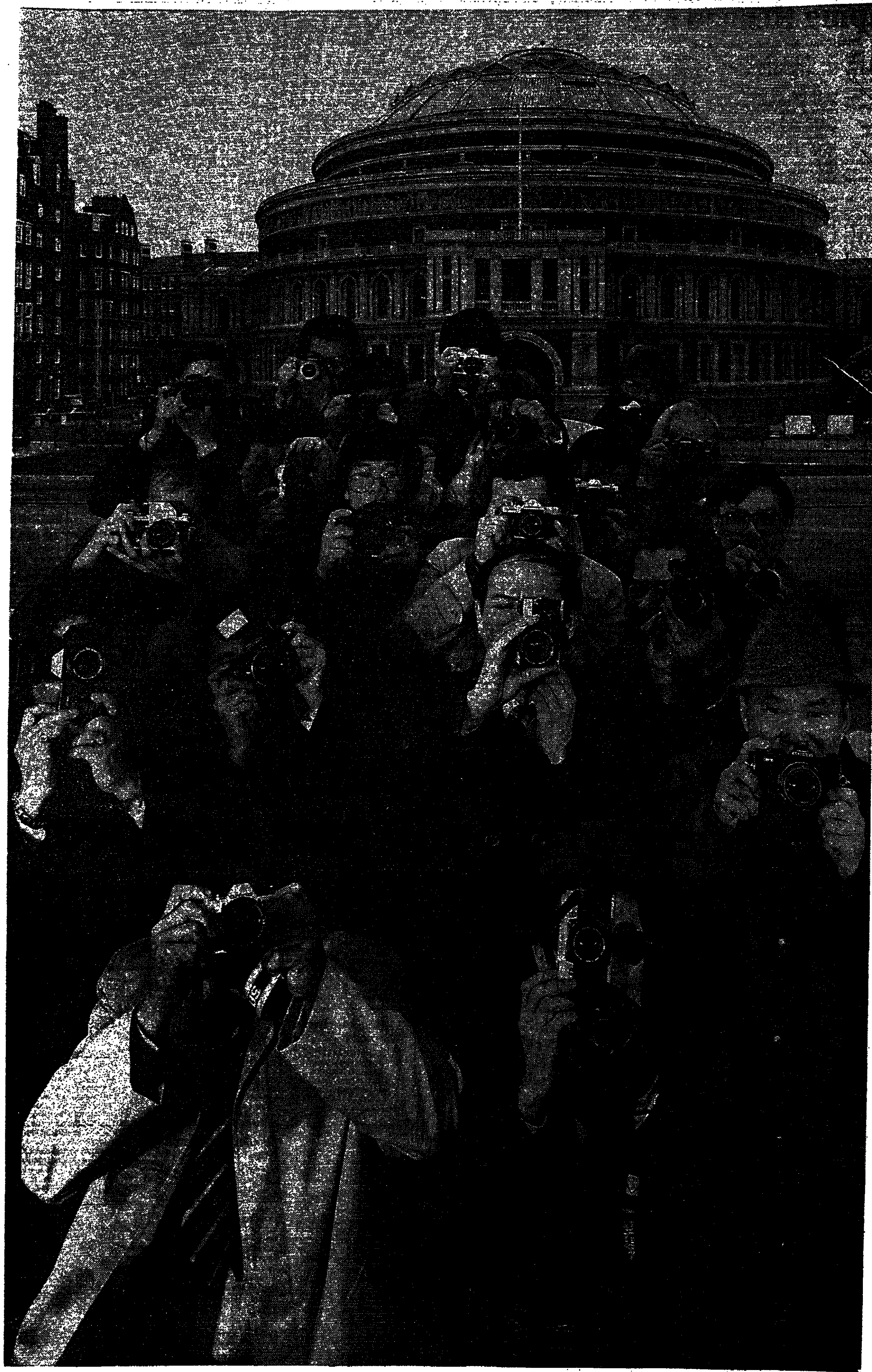
Well worth the stop

Stopping over in the New York/New Jersey area is a lot more affordable than you think. There are comfortable hotels in every price range. Uptown, downtown, all over town. Near the lights of Broadway or Atlantic City. Your travel agent can book them for you. So why fly over America's greatest attraction when it's so easy to stop over? Ask your travel agent about low-cost tours and stop-over packages that start in the New York/New Jersey area. Then come stop over!

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هكذا من الاصل

WE SENT A LARGE CONSIGNMENT OF LENS GLASS TO JAPAN LAST YEAR. MOST OF IT CAME STRAIGHT BACK.

If the Japanese didn't continually strive to produce the best cameras in the world it would be a different story.

But they do. That's why a good deal of the glass for their lenses doesn't come from Tokyo or Osaka. It comes from St Asaph in North Wales.

Last year Pilkington exported over 700 tons of high quality optical glass to Japan. Enough glass to make at least 20 million lenses.

Not just for cameras. For video cameras, photocopiers, binoculars and spectacles (three out of four Japanese photochromic sunglass wearers observe the rising sun through Pilkington Reactolite Rapide lenses).

Fortunately the Japanese aren't the only ones who know quality when they see it.

Pilkington produces almost one fifth of all the ophthalmic lenses in the western world and though ophthalmics represents only a fraction of the Group's output (about one twentieth) it's a market which is rapidly growing.

That's exactly why Pilkington is continually developing new areas.

Ultra sophisticated range finders. Holographic optics. Security equipment. Thermal imaging equipment.

Beyond the area of ophthalmics, scope for innovation in glass seems almost limitless.

Already Pilkington has developed a range of products as diverse as nuclear shielding windows and a glass pellet for livestock which actually dissolves in the stomach gradually releasing its vital minerals.

With 70% of our income now earned from abroad and with a worldwide turnover of more than £1,200,000,000 it seems our innovations are paying off handsomely.

It's certainly nice to hear of a British company succeeding so well in Japan when so often we hear the story the other way round.

It's also nice to know that thanks to Pilkington many of our foreign visitors get to see our more famous monuments in the best possible light.



PILKINGTON

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Ringling the changes: Pearson Phillips reports on the ins and outs of telephone people

Direct line to the smart set

It is to swinging, trendy, privatized British Telecom that I am indebted for the information that it is fashionable to sleep without pyjamas, as long as you have a telephone in the bedroom.

Ever since a certain Professor Alan Ross wrote an article called "Linguistic class-indicators in present-day English" in 1954, the British people have been hooked on anything which tells them how well they are performing on the social ladder, and how badly their neighbours are doing. First it was U and non-U, then it was In and Out, Sloanes and Wallies ushered in a new, chaotic era of sub-groups: Yaps, Yuppies, Foodies and Fogies. And now, heaven help us, meet the Phonies.

The commercial world has long been aware, of course, that there was money in all this. Get your product "In" and you are away. Let it slip "Out" and bankruptcy will loom. Imagine what desperate scenes there must have been among the makers of "crucets" when Professor Ross, followed by Nancy Mitford, gave them the thumbs down in 1954. (Let us hope they were clever enough to

diversify into those plain wooden Italian-style pepper grinders in time).

Advertising alone cannot work the miracle. Something more subtle is needed in order to harness the hidden social currents. British Telecom has found an answer to its prayers: a favourable Gallup poll.

In setting out to maximize sales potential by making the telephone a smart, fashionable, "in" instrument the lads at BT set themselves a huge task. All the more so on account of the fact that they seem to insist on calling their product a "phone". The word "phone" was, I would have thought, put in its place for ever by the late Sir John Betjeman with a line that will live for ever: "Phone for the fish knives, Norman..."

Unbashed, BT invented an In-phone, and commissioned a Gallup poll which shows that having several modern high technology push-button telephones, including at least one of the cordless type, is what today's In-Crowd believes life is all about.

How did they reach this conclusion? They started by collecting a group of today's "leading opinion formers", with their help, they then

compiled a list of statements about what is in and what is out. They then asked their statistical sample of 404 upper-income-group men and women between 16 and 44 throughout Great Britain whether they agreed, strongly agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed or didn't care. That is called "dipstick research".

It is social death to be without a cordless phone

Who were the "opinion formers"? They included a girl from *Constellation* magazine, the highly successful woman behind the Brown's fashion empire, Joan Bernstein, the ever-swinging Peter Cadbury, the elegant Jocasta Jones, and a man on the cutting edge of social observation called Nicholas Monson.

The poll confirms that a large number of things which emerge from this investigation as "in" imply extended use of the telephone service. For instance, two-timing, or having an affair is apparently in (56 per cent)

say it is, and the figure goes up to 64 per cent among working women). Think of the phone calls in that all the weekend excursions to the call-box down the road... all those times when the wrong person picks up the phone and it goes dead. All those agonizing calls to friends saying "What shall I do?"

Writing love letters is out (57 per cent). It is in to spend hours on the phone instead. Sending flowers is in. That's another phone call. So are what our leading opinion formers call "traditional weddings". You can bet your life Mums will spend a fortune on the phone organizing those.

Having got through questions about fashion (the baggy, jogging look is in for men, the Princess Diana look is out for women), homes and holidays, the survey finally gets to the real point of the exercise: telephones.

Electric toothbrushes are out, but having more than one phone in the house is in (81 per cent said so). There was a general thumbs down for quaint Mickey Mouse phones. But significant support for push-buttons (92 per cent), number memory (65 per cent) and a phone in the kitchen (65 per

cent). There was even more support for a phone in the bedroom (82 per cent). It also appears to be social death to be without cordless model lying around somewhere (79 per cent say in).

Slowly we discover the kind of people whom BT has approached. They are people who have soaked up the latest of the fashionable British post-war categories, the Young Aspiring Professionals, the hard-working ("being a workaholic" is in) would-be BMW owners (86 per cent say it's in) who go to wine bars rather than pubs (port and lemon is out) and believe in "displaying success" (51 per cent).

And how do they display it? By owning a Magma, a microwave oven, a video, a home computer, a telephone answering machine, and a "modern plug-in phone which matches the decor". The full details of the ins and outs of this tribe are revealed alongside.

There are one or two surprises. Close study of the survey shows that the Midlands and Wales do not seem to think like the rest of us. The Princess of Wales is still in, in Leicester, Shropshire and Cardiff. Tartan is generally out, especially in Scotland, but in in the Midlands and, curiously, Wales. The great geographical heart of England also, apparently, thinks that "The Thirties Look" is in, while it is out everywhere else.

There are some strange differences as well. Men think diamond earrings are terribly old hat for women. Women think they are in. Talking of hats, men think women in hats are out, women think men in hats are in. Everyone thinks men in hats are in.

6 Rolls-Royces and men wearing hats are out

It is also odd how the Atlantic divides attitudes. British Telecom tells us that here Harris tweed, cavalry cut and brogues are out for men, but that "the clean-cut casual look", with slip-on shoes, is in. In America it is the other way round.

I am amazed to see that "do-it-yourself" is in. Doing-it-yourself, and pretending that you have had someone in to do it for you, is more in. Rolls-Royces and gold bathroom fittings are out, even in the Midlands. Holidays at home also seem to be gaining favour. Over 80 per cent think that watching television news is the height of trendiness. Watching Benny Hill, on the other hand, is the pits. The theatre is in, though it is not clear whether this means going to it, or just reading the reviews.

But telephones are where it's at. The survey discovered that 95 per cent of the sample had heard of cordless telephones, but only 29 per cent had ever used one. Think of the potential there. Then there is automatic redialling, number memory, on-hook dialling (24 per cent did not "fully understand" what that is, and nor do I) and one-piece equipment. The only danger will be if they sell so many of these delights that they stop being in and become out like fish forks. (I already know of one trend-setter who has startled his American banking employers by refusing to have a push-button phone on his desk, and demanding an old-fashioned dialling instrument).

Nevertheless, there's plenty of mileage in it yet. Eventually even the Midlands and Wales might catch on. I only wish I'd been trendy enough to get some British Telecom shares.

A seasonal escape from the mousetrap



Shona Crawford Poole

So much of the food on our tables is either processed or imported from sunny climes that many of the raw materials of our meals have become detached from their natural seasons.

We still look forward to spring lamb, summer strawberries, autumn apples and winter sprouts, but many other foodstuffs have lost their place in the seasonal scheme of things. Take cheese.

The idea that cheeses too are better at one season than another is fading fast. In part this is for the very good reason that the bulk of cheese manufactured has become as standardized as the cut white sandwich loaf. The consumer is judged to want a predictable, consistent product, and that majority which does is brilliantly served. The quality of cheese available in good supermarkets is very high and the choice increases constantly.

So what kinds of cheese are better at one season than another or only made at certain times of year? One of the cheeses - Randolph Hodgson, owner of Neal's Yard Dairy in Covent Garden, picks out as being particularly good now is Devon Garland, a pressed cheese with a layer of herbs in the centre. It is made from the unpasteurized milk of a Jersey herd which grazes in water meadows near Barnstaple.

"This cheese is particularly good in spring and autumn because the cows are out and the temperature is just right for cheesemaking", he explained. "In winter, when the cows are in, the milk is not quite as good. In summer the cows are out, the milk is great but the cheesemaking happens so fast in high temperatures that the cheese will go crumbly."

His own spring choice are the Swaledale cheeses which have a distinctive sour taste and a following of keen admirers. "We have people coming into the shop every week from early March asking when the Swaledales will be coming in."

About 50 different English cheeses can be found in Neal's Yard Dairy at this time of the year. "One else that I know of is doing only British cheeses," said Randolph Hodgson. "They all seem to be under the impression that they have got to supply English cheese only as an addition to French, just tagged on."

The selection of British cheeses available today has increased dramatically compared with only four years ago, he says. "The expansion has been very noticeable. What has happened in the last couple of years is that small-scale cheese makers have felt able to sell outside their local markets. They have been growing more confident. Most of the cheese-makers we are selecting from have been making for at least the last five years."

As well as their own fresh cheeses, new names like Thixendale and Ribblesdale, and carefully selected and well-cared for examples of all the traditional hard cheeses, Neal's Yard carries rare unpasteurized farm cheddars that will dazzle taste buds accustomed to factory mousetrap. The Grant's cheddar made in December 1982 and the Montgomery's made 11 months later are superb. One

taster remarked that he had not smelled cheese like that since before the war.

The *Great British Cheese Book* by Patrick Rance (Paperback £3.50) is readable, encyclopaedic, and has been justly described as a *tour de force* and a classic. It carries exhaustive lists of cheese producers and specialist retailers. The classic work on French cheeses, Androuet's *Guide du Fromage* (the English edition is published by Aidan Ellis at £9.95) lists month-month selections of cheeses which can be expected to be at their best.

Quentin Russell of The London Cheese Company put together for tasting one of Androuet's May selections. When we got to the Brie de Meaux which was soft, but not a bit runny, he said, "A Frenchman would like it like this, firm, almost a little chalky in the centre. Runny is a bad thing. It means that a secondary fermentation is taking over."

Tasting is encouraged at The London Cheese Company, supplier to such institutions as The Ritz and Lord's Cricket Ground, and at Neal's Yard Dairy. "It goes against the image of English people not being fussy about their food," says Randolph Hodgson. "But if you give people a taste of two or three different cheeses they are very, very sure about what they do and don't want."

I have found that it pays to taste not only the cheese you are planning to buy but anything else that a specialist shop advises is on stock that week. Quentin Russell's Le Papillon Roquefort, and pasteurized taleggio and munster are powerful cheeses I would not have thought of choosing until I tasted them.

A useful recipe for leftovers of any fairly strong cheese are these crisp cheese biscuits.

Crisp cheese biscuits
Makes about 30

110g (4oz) cheese, grated
110g (4oz) butter, softened
55g (2oz) plain flour
Salt and cayenne pepper to taste
Beat together the cheese, butter and flour until the mixture is thoroughly blended and season it to taste with salt and cayenne. (Alternative seasonings include celery salt, caraway and nutmeg.)

Mould small teaspoonfuls of the mixture into balls and space them well apart on a greased baking sheet. Flatten them slightly and bake the biscuits in a 220°C/425°F gas mark 7 for about 10 minutes, or until they are pale golden. Do not overbake them or the cheese will have a bitter taste. Transfer the biscuits to a wire rack to cool. Store in an airtight box.

IN FASHION	
Women	Men
Leisure/jogging wear	Sporty, clean-cut, casual wear
Baggy, layered clothing	Training shoes
Classic dress	Slipovers
Court shoes	White
V-neck sweaters	Blocks of colour
Lace tights	Khaki
Ties	Leather
Black and white	Wool
Bright blue and red	Denim
Leather	Flannel
Wool	

IN LIFESTYLES	
Young, professional, socially mobile people - "Yuppies"	
Displaying success	
Intellectualism	
Foodies	
Nepotism	
Work and workaholics	
Sending singing telegrams and telexes	
Reading a quality Sunday newspaper and the <i>News of the World</i>	
Spending holidays in villas	
Having personal stationery	
Driving BMWs and Sports Mercedes	
Going out to dinner with lots of friends	
Drinking wine, and gin and tonic	
Watching TV, especially the news and <i>Minder</i>	
Being designer conscious and interested in fashion for oneself	

IN THE HOME	IN PLACES
Comfort	Greece
Rustic/country cottage look	Paris
Hi-tech	Scotland
Pine	West Indies
Mahogany	Skiing in the USA
Jazzies	Morocco
Gas log fires	Turkey
Bidets	The theatre
Festoon blinds	Cinemas
Plants	Italian restaurants
Gadgets	Indian restaurants
Remote control	Hamburger chains
Videos	
Microwave ovens	IN LOVE
Home computers	Traditional weddings
British Telecom	Sending flowers
Infophones	Getting engaged
Answering machines	Having an affair



HALLMARKS OF THE 'OUT' SET	
Following fashion slavishly	
Punk and Boy George looks	
Luxur and sequins	
Furry dice, personalized sunstrips and CB radio	
Pyjamas	
Electric toothbrushes	
Gold bathroom fittings	
Mickey Mouse phones	
Drinking port and lemon	
Holidays on the Spanish mainland	
Holiday camps	
Computer dating and women proposing	
Tea in a hotel	
Reading Benny Hill on TV	
Watching Benny Hill on TV	
Sloane Rangers and being seen at Henley and May Balls	
Writing letters, especially love letters	

From Deborah Derrick, Senior Information Officer, National Council for One Parent Family, Kentish Town Road, London NW5.

Though Suzanne Greaves shows welcome concern for young drug addicts to end the series *Family in Crisis*, she seems herself under the influence of a growing and dangerous phenomenon: blaming parents for society's ills.

The article "Starting off on a life of crime" implies a strong connection between one-parent families and drug addiction without any evidence to support this view. We help 10,000 one-parent families each year with over 14,000 problems and believe there is nothing to uphold this contention.

The article moreover does a grave disservice to the many lone parents who, despite increasing hostility towards them, are raising their children successfully. The reality is that one in three marriages end in

TALKBACK

Family in Crisis, the three-part series in *The Times* last week (May 6, 8 and 10), provoked some lively comment. In particular, two readers took exception to what they saw in the articles as a suggestion that parents, especially single parents, are responsible for society's ills.

divorce and one in five children will experience divorce by the age of 16. But successive Government policies mean many one-parent families are poor and, since most are headed by women, large numbers depend on low wages to meet essential domestic bills.

There is no reason to link working mothers with conditions producing drug addiction. If you really care for the future of children, you should highlight the cuts in day-care provision and tax on workplace

nurseries, the threatened benefit cuts in the Government's social security reviews and, not least, the despair of unemployed youth which makes them prey to drug pushers.

From Julie Kaufman, General Secretary, Gingerbread (for lone parents and children), Wellington Street, London WC2.

Young people who take drugs come from every social class and a variety of family backgrounds. Children who hang around after school are in many cases doing so to avoid contact with either, or both, of their parents. With our work in Gingerbread we are in daily contact with many thousands of lone parents who, despite their problems, quietly get on with bringing up tomorrow's stable citizens.

The family is still there with, as always, a range of individual differences regarding composition and parenting abilities. The family is not the cause of society's problems, it is one of its victims.

Self interest

From William Bowyer, Home Farm, Hurst Green, Surrey.

It would be dangerous to draw too many conclusions about the attractions of the single life from your article "Declaration of Independence". April 14, Most of your examples live in London and all appear to be more than comfortably off.

Most single parents are so by accident rather than design. They are committed to bringing up children on their own, doing all the domestic chores and probably trying to earn a living as well. They have little time to enjoy themselves even if they are not on the breadline and opportunities for social contact outside work or friends are very limited. Many of these "singles" are desperately lonely - why else the growth in organisations like Gingerbread?

Your vision of a world full of individuals in their straitened kitchenettes is a vision of horror where man has ceased to communicate with man.

Death still stalks Exorcist Road

Bunker Hill Road, Washington, was once a small tree-lined avenue. Today it is a forlorn place of rundown houses and deserted people. Tragedy strikes with a rhythmic, chilling certainty.

Some of the old people still remember the grotesque young man who lived in the road until the exorcism came. When things go wrong there is a sense about the vacant plot of land at the end of the road, where number 3210 used to stand.

Scott Woodcock was burned to death in Bunker Hill Road last June. John Plummer was murdered on his way home a year before that. Della Wenley was burned alive three months previously. Eliza Day was murdered indoors a year earlier.

Last month Robert Bourgeois was charged with shooting two women with a shotgun and setting fire to their bodies. People say the number of natural deaths is extraordinary.

Plot 3210 looks peculiarly bare, covered only by a thin, coarse layer of grass and weeds. The fire brigade burned down the derelict remains of the old house 20 years ago. Parts of garden wall remain, and concrete steps rise to an imaginary front door.

Nobody will build on plot 3210. Nobody, indeed, seems sure who owns it. The events of 1949, immortalized in the film *The Exorcist*, continue to unsettle Bunker Hill Road.

Father Albert Hughes was the exorcist whose exploits were dramatized by Hollywood. He was the Roman Catholic priest of St James's, the neighbourhood church. The "possession" 14-year-old boy - not a girl as depicted in the film - is 50 now, married with children, supposedly happy and living some 500 miles away in America.

His whereabouts are known only to the Catholic Church. He long ago converted from Lutheranism to Catholicism. One or two people in the neighbourhood know his name but none, strangely, will tell.



The empty plot at 3210: Ghosts seem to haunt it

Father Hughes only once discussed at length his experiences during the exorcism. A few days later, in October 1980, he died. The conversation happened over dinner with his young assistant, Father Frank Bohrer, who is now at the St Stephen's Martyr Church in central Washington. They would frequently ruminate on the personality of Bunker Hill Road. "It makes you wonder why certain areas are more prone to heinous crimes", Father Bohrer said.

Father Hughes never fully recovered from the exorcism. Father Bohrer said he became introspective, smiled less and was "prayerful".

The first rite was conducted at Georgetown University. The boy was held to the bed with leather straps. He burst one strap, tore out a bed spring and ripped open Father Hughes's arm with a Swiss marksman's accuracy, and disappeared on the boy's body. He spoke in a tongue believed to have been Aramaic, a Semitic language from biblical times.

Father Bohrer said: "Father Hughes told me that furniture moved around the room. Chairs were flying around tables. The

voice was hoarse. The language was foul. Afterwards the boy had other exorcisms in St Louis, Missouri, by a Jesuit priest. I do know that he is happy now."

Not many people seem happy on Bunker Hill Road. Marilyn Smith described it as a neighbourhood of tragedy. Bill Clouser is recovering from a heart attack. He swears his house is haunted.

Mary Landolt, who lives immediately next door to number 3210, insists that nothing ever happened there, that the strange goings-on took place in some other street. Nora Pittendurges said she knew the boy and knew where he was living now. "I'd never tell. None of us would. I won't talk about it. Tell Father Bohrer. I never told you. It's a horrible, horrible business."

Bunker Hill Road was a middle-class area at the time of the exorcism. Today it is a neglected, poor white enclave gripped by crime and a pervasive sense of hopelessness. It is little wonder that number 3210 Bunker Hill Road has assumed such demonic significance in the minds of the people.

Christopher Thomas

Would You Play The Piano More Often?

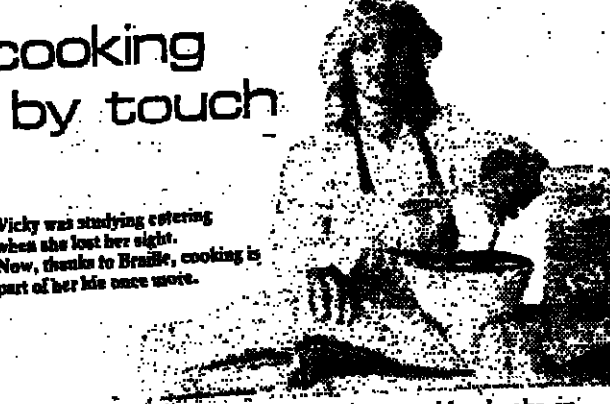
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THE TIMES DIARY

Knight wear

Sir Geoffrey Howe's sartorial saga continues. The man who lost his trousers in a train has now, I learn, acquired three new shirts and two pairs of pyjamas courtesy of the Commons trade and industry committee and Lady Evans, wife of our man in Peking. Lady Evans accosted the committee during its visit to China last week and asked if it had room for a package. Of course, said the committee. During a banquet that night a carrier bag arrived from the embassy addressed to Howe's wife and containing the aforesaid clothing. Lady Evans had recently returned from Hong Kong where, it is thought, Sir Geoffrey had ordered the clothes during the sovereignty negotiations. So tickled was one committee member, Stan Crowther, that he has committed this latest episode to verse: "The aim of the visit, or so we all thought, was to study the problems and produce a report. It's now become clear, though it's not alarm us, that we've really been sent for Sir Geoffrey's pyjamas."

Circumvention

Bruce Kent of CND telephones in a state of high amusement. Who had he met at the opening of the Battersea Buddhist Peace Pagoda yesterday but Tair Tair, the Soviet World Peace Council official whom the Home Office barred from attending an unofficial tribunal on the legality of nuclear weapons here in January on the grounds that his presence in Britain "would not be conducive to the public good". For this occasion Tairrow had been given a visa in Helsinki with no questions asked. "He was amazed to be let in," says Kent. "He couldn't understand why there was one rule in January and another in May."

Family trees

Gorillas now have their own computer dating system, thanks to the efforts of the National Federation of Zoos. Dr Georgina Mace, based at Regent's Park, is busily putting ancestry and profiles of great apes on to a computerized "match book" so that the most genetically advantageous matches can be made. "Just like Dehret's," she tells me.

Spotted at Monday night's Mayfair reception for Vidal Sassoon's exhibition of hairstyle photographs: swimmer Duncan Goodhew.

Wet through

There is no shortage of wet MPs at Westminster nowadays, and not all of them are Tories. Four Labour members have put down a motion complaining of a "massive penetration of water" into their offices on Sunday night and protesting that "such inadequate accommodation is offered in the first place to the elected representatives of over 250,000 people". A burst cistern is the official explanation. Ann Clywd, one of the four, demurs. "Effluent," she says. "It stinks - and the windows won't open."

BARRY FANTONI



Dubbendox

More evidence that the BBC's commitment to investigative reporting is waning in the face of massive libel costs. Richard Lightbody, producer of last week's 40 Minutes programme on the morning sickness drug Debendox, admitted yesterday that "cosmetic changes" were made to the programme shortly before it went on the air to avoid any chance of legal action. Lawyers for the drug's makers, Merrell Dow, having been denied a preview, told the BBC that they would be "looking very hard" at the programme when broadcast. At the last minute Lightbody succumbed to the pressure, and loud sound effects were dubbed over any words that could conceivably be construed as actionable. He will be relieved to hear that Merrell Dow will not be taking action. "You have to bear in mind that there's not much money in the piggy bank for this sort of thing," he said.

Delayed arrival

A message from British Rail on Prestel television yesterday: "Yes, our new timetable did start today. Yes, we know it's not on Prestel yet. Yes, we do humbly apologise. Yes, we are trying to get the computer programme right. Yes, we have dragged the programmer out of the pub. Yes, we're getting there - slowly." And when was the announcement dated? The day before yesterday.

PHS

When will the dons start to learn?

by Tim Congdon

group is no longer active and has stopped publishing its *Economic Policy Review*.

Views differ on the value of the particular brand of economics espoused by Cambridge in the early 1980s. But the demise of the Cambridge group has certainly left a void in public debate. It is therefore welcome that some Oxford economists have established a new group intended to analyse policy developments and relate them to important changes in economic theory. Last week saw the publication of the first issue of the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* under the editorship of Christopher Allsopp of New College.

Unlike its Cambridge predecessor, the Oxford group has no obvious ideological axe to grind. The review contains an article from Professor David Laider, well known for his monetarist leanings, and another from Professor David Hendry, who has deployed heavyweight econometrics in an attempt to debunk Milton Friedman's recent work. Its next issue is to be devoted to analysis of the labour market and its workings, right at the heart of the supply-side problems in which both the Government and the Opposition parties are interested.

But it would be a mistake to say that the review is altogether even-handed. Three of the four thematic articles in the first issue are sceptical of the validity of the public sector borrowing requirement as a policy tool. Since control of the

PSBR has become a key feature of the Government's medium-term strategy, the authors of the three articles clearly have a subversive intention.

Behind the characteristic Oxford restraint and intellectual caution of the new review lies an old and familiar demand, that the Government should deflate the economy by standard Keynesian means. In his opening assessment of macro-economic policy in the 1980s, Mr Allsopp says there is "a real puzzle" why concern over the size of public-sector debt has arisen in industrial countries, particularly the UK, and "even more over its economic rationale". For him, it seems, additions to the debt from increased borrowing are a good thing.

The real puzzle here is, however, rather different: it is whether Oxford academics have designed to look at the economic facts of the 1980s. The last decade has seen, in both developed and developing countries, the greatest-ever explosion in public-sector indebtedness. If the review's contributors spent a few minutes reading the relevant publications from the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, they could easily verify the point. They might also discover that for the world as a whole, this explosion in debt has brought no benefits in growth or employment and that, for some countries, its effects have been catastrophic.

The most pathetic, if also the most instructive, examples of

excessive indebtedness are in Latin America. But there is another illustration closer to home. In Ireland, at about the same time that control over the PSBR and money supply became the hallmarks of the UK's economic policies, there was a deliberate move towards fiscal restraint. The results today are not a good advertisement for the monetarist case.

The ratio of public-sector debt to national income rose sharply. Holders of government debt expect to be paid interest, and the riskier the government's actions, the higher the rate of interest they require. So the proportion of the national income needed to cover public-sector debt interest rose even more rapidly than the debt/income ratio.

The main long-run effect of Ireland's restraint is that taxation has had to be raised to meet the debt-holders' claims. Unemployment and inflation are now both worse than in the UK.

The *Oxford Review* claims that it will sometimes "provide an overview of recent economic research of direct relevance to specific policy questions". The aim is laudable enough; but have not the contributors to the first issue asked themselves why there is such a large gap between their favourite policy prescriptions and what governments - not only in the UK, but in many other countries - are actually doing? Are they really confident that their suggestions remain "directly relevant" to conditions in the 1980s? Is there not at least a possibility that all they have done is to refurbish outmoded and unsatisfactory ideas dating from the 1950s?

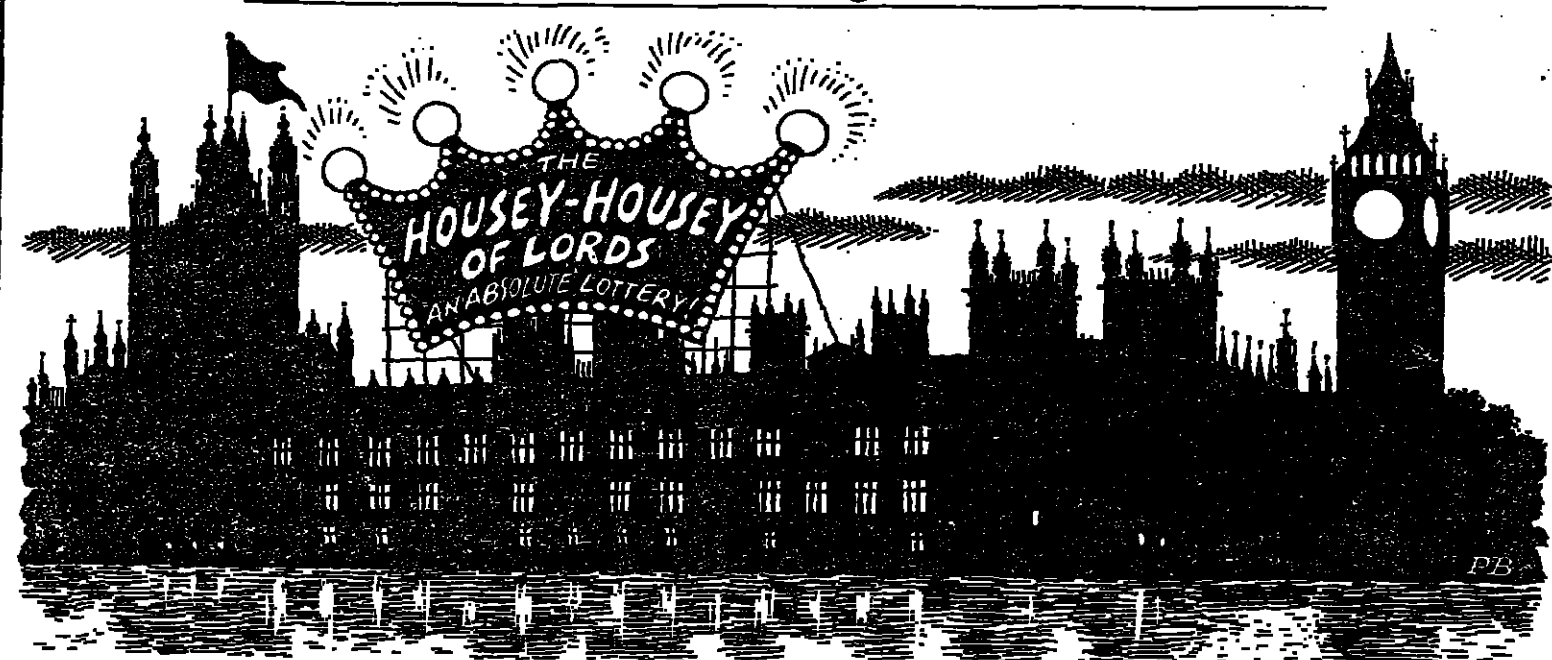
The hope must be that the Oxford group makes a more enduring and balanced contribution to public debate than the Cambridge group before it. To make that contribution it should show more awareness of why governments behave as they do than is apparent from the first issue of its review.

The author is economics partner of stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

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Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Oxford University Press, £5 a year in UK

After councils, the buses: George Hill on hazards ahead



An iron fist in the Lords' ermine pillow

Political life in the House of Lords in the past few weeks has been a bit like a bingo game, the tellers on the Government side never quite sure when Opposition peers are going to cry house, and win.

For a government, defeat on a bill in the Lords is usually a little like being smothered in eiderdowns. Most of those piling the billowing upholstery higher and higher would never dream of suggesting that their efforts are devoted to anything more subtle than refining and polishing the bill. The Lords' usual head-bashed and hasty fashion. In the same way, the government's victims lie under the rising counterpane mumbled about the rights of peers to go their own way, within the ambit of policies laid down by the elected House.

Yet behind the bland facades, the lobbying over the Local Government Bill has been intense on all sides. Ministerial figures from the Commons, making fine voting calculations, have been seen prowling the corridors of the Lords seeking ennobled Tory arms to twist. Telephones in the Opposition whips' offices have been ringing frantically to implore absent peers to appear for crucial divisions. Peers scarcely seen at Westminster in living memory shuffle round the half-remembered lobbies wondering why the bishops look so young.

The Government naturally professes itself well satisfied with the string of defeats inflicted on it in the committee stage of the bill this month. "It's a revising chamber, so one expects it to do a bit of revising," says Lord Denham, Government Chief Whip. "Some of the amendments tabled have been rather more in the way of wrecking amendments, but we haven't lost any of those."

The substantive damage done to the bill has in fact been limited. There is no fear in the civilized Lords of anything so coarse as a filibuster, the precious timetable is assured. The most significant division of all was won by the Government on the second day of the Committee stage - the amendment which would have turned the

"residuary bodies", intended to cope with all the loose ends that the Government failed to decide upon beforehand, into permanent strategic bodies scarcely distinguishable from the top-tier authorities they will replace.

Next, the bill's opponents tried the tactic of voting more and more powers to the residuary bodies to achieve the same effect by degrees. But this has been largely frustrated, with only transport responsibilities newly assigned to them. Other tricky amendments still to come - next Monday's debate on responsibility for voluntary services is probably the trickiest - would not greatly affect this even if they were successful. There will be further opportunities for whittling away in the bill's extended report stage, but the Government has some reason to feel relieved that matters are no worse. Of course the Commons retains the power to reverse Lords amendments on the bill's return.

Even the most privately virulent of the opponents in the Lords are inhibited in the chamber by the delicate constitutional relationship between the two Houses. Once the Commons have endorsed the fundamental principles of a bill, especially in a case like this where it enacts a promise made in the ruling party's manifesto, the Lords are cautious of using their powers of delay - for the Lords is a kind of residuary body itself, ultimately dependent on the tolerance of the Commons.

But few bills have come from the Commons with so many loose ends left untied. "Some peers obviously forget all about the constitutional

side of things in their enthusiasm to support something they feel particularly strongly about," says Lady Hylton-Foster, an independent member who acts as informal convenor of the crossbenchers. "Everyone says the crossbenchers are throwing their weight against the Government, as we are entitled to. But the voting record shows that we are not acting as a block - there is a small hard core on each side and the rest of us are fairly floating. On balance, though, we split slightly more against the Government than for it."

Lady Hylton-Foster's own voting record indicates that she inclines towards the Government's position on the bill. But all crossbenchers are sent "no-line whips" and details of amendments whatever their views. The role of the crossbenchers is crucial, for when all the backbenchers on either side have been mobilized, neither can count on a majority on many clauses of the bill. Even within the major parties, the process of whipping in the votes is far less rigorous than it is in the Commons. In the nature of things, most peers have left all political ambition behind them, they have no fear for their seats, and the leverage of the Whips is correspondingly weak. "Considering how many Tory peers Mrs Thatcher has created in the last few years, the fact that they can't get majorities now shows how few friends this bill really has," says a caustic observer in one opposition Whips' office.

It is proverbial that Tory peers can afford to dine in the House of Lords restaurant, while Labour peers in particular are apt to melt away at dinner time, and only reappear later, minus the more venerable of their number. Amendments voted on in this interim tend to go the Government's way though there is much that the Opposition can do to control the pace at which its amendments are got through. There is no rigorous co-ordination between the diverse factions who stand opposed to the bill. Peers make a point of acting as individuals and often vote one way on one amendment and the other way an hour later. There have been some all-party meetings for doubtful peers to inform themselves on technical issues like science and voluntary services, but in the last resort every peer is his own man or woman.

A small group of Tories, including Lord Plummer, former chairman of the GLC, have been frequent, though not invariable, dissidents. "They didn't think it through before they brought it forward," says Lord Plummer. "I think they were silly to fight some of the things through a division. An experience like this is likely to make the Opposition readier to put up a fight over later measures - it smells blood and gets a taste for it."

It is obvious that the most likely victim of any such feelings would be the Buses Bill, which is the way to the Lords, and peers are already receiving cries of anguish from the Tory shires about it on a scale almost comparable to the immense and well-oiled organized lobbying over the Local Government Bill. But the latter has come largely from bodies "out to save their own skins", as one peer puts it, and many of the recipients have felt that such floods of mail paid for out of ratepayers' money has been counter-productive. But the objections to the Buses Bill are more often from individuals, which peers find it harder to discount. The Government's limited success in piloting the Local Government Bill through relatively unscathed may well prove to have been achieved at the cost of welding together a most formidable alliance of opponents to the Buses Bill.

though, mercifully, the latter meaning is obsolescent. Priceless can mean both valueless and of inestimable value.

With a language as slippery as this, we must choose our words carefully.

Since we are quirk-hunting, I am also trying to complete The Unhelpful Alphabet. So far it goes: A for Aegis; B for Bdelium; C for Ctenoid; D for Djinn; E for Ewe; G for Gnat; H for Hour; J for Jippijapa (pronounced hipipapa); K for Knot; L for Llanfyrnogainwisgogerrywig... etc., on blessed Mona, and I can spell it correctly if I want: M for Muenomic; N for Mispripin (yes, that is a joke); O for Oestrogen; P for Psalm; Q for Quay; T for Tsar; U for Ukiyoe (pronounced okeyyoe); W for Whole; X for Christmas; Y for You. And quiddity to you too, sir or madam.

Quiddities in

New words for old, by Philip Howard

lantic congratulatory cables after first nights.

Chuffed is used to mean both grunted and disgruntled, though the former use seems to me to be prevailing.

To cleave can mean both to cling together or adhere to something, and to split apart.

Contemporary is used to mean both at that time, and now.

Down, as in the Sussex Downs, is used to mean both an upland, and a low-lying place.

Fast is used to mean both speedy and fleet, and also stationary and steadfast.

Impartable can be used to mean both something that cannot be parted, and also something that can be imparted or shared.

Inflammable is a notorious Janus word. It is widely used to mean both something that can be set on fire, and also something that cannot be set on fire. This is dangerous as well as silly. Sooner or later someone's fingers will be burnt because of the confusion.

Luggerate can mean born and, on the other hand, not born.

Insurer, in the jargon of the insurance business, means either the company, or the insured person,

Jack Straw

Attack the green, lose the blues

"I'll have to ask me dad." That's what I thought he used to say (and my mother said I was right). In fact it was "Eh, don't some mothers have 'em". Either way, he conjured up a vision of clogs and smog, tripe and shawls. I never questioned that he must have lived in the town of his surname. I once looked it up in my school atlas - next to Blackburn and Burnley, so it had to be a mill town - Clitheroe. It gave its name to *The Clitheroe Kid* - on the Light Programme (later Radio 2) for fourteen and a half years.

The shattering of my childhood illusions was the discovery that the person who played this timeless adolescent was not a boy actor, but a grown-up aged about 67, with a highly developed fetoic voice. A second shock came later. It was the discovery that Clitheroe wasn't a mill town after all, but the ancient and prosperous urban centre of a rich, agricultural Lancashire valley, 11 miles and light years from the industrial valley over the hill of Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley, Nelson and Colne.

It's still prosperous. While Labour councillors in Blackburn spend their lives dealing with the scourge of unemployment in their town, the Labour councillors in Clitheroe make speeches referring to its absence.

In 1984 Clitheroe had the second lowest unemployment rate in the country. At 5.2 per cent it was beaten by just a tenth of a percentage point by Winchester and Eastleigh. Newbury in Berkshire is reputed to be the most affluent part of the golden valley along the M4. But, with unemployment at 7.9 per cent, it looks positively depressed when compared with Clitheroe. Nor is Clitheroe an aberration. Of the thirty areas with the lowest levels of unemployment, ten are north of a line from Bristol to the Wash - places like Windermer, Ripon, Skipton, Aberdeen and Galashiels. Kendal, at 7.3 per cent, abuts Workington (19.8 per cent). There are surprises the other way too. The area with the highest unemployment rate in 1984 was Newquay, in Cornwall. Blackburn, now with 10,000 out of work, shares its unemployment rate (15.4 per cent) with the Isle of Wight.

This all places that there is a North-South divide, most notably on the political map. Two weeks ago in the county elections Labour almost took the Clitheroe Town ward from the Tories, reducing a 1981 majority of 483 to just 80. In the South, in the same kind of area, we might well have come a bad third. There are more problems of structural unemployment in the North, since it was the home of our earliest and now declining industries. The wireless, on which I used to listen to *The Clitheroe Kid*, had valves made at Muddards, Blackburn. They used to employ 5,000; then someone invented the transistor, and 4,000 lost their jobs.

But the crude division between North and South has led to vast oversimplification about the problems of the regions (for a long while Clitheroe received regional assis-

tance). This is now leading to major errors in planning and the use of land which could determine the future shape of rural as well as of urban Britain.

How has Clitheroe survived the Thatcher depression, while the urban North has faltered? Fothergill and Gudgeon, in their study, *Unequal Growth*, give a clue. "Small towns



Clitheroe: as deceptive as the town

and rural areas are growing at the expense of cities," they say. There are more small towns and country areas in the South.

The Government's response to this shift is simply to let it happen. Investment in the urban programme is to be cut by £150m - as the Royal Institute of British Architects recently pointed out. Housing programmes have already been axed, and it is the big cities which suffer most from general cuts in rate support grant. Now, as the cities decay, developers, with a nod and a wink from ministers, propose to undermine the Green Belt. Consortium Developments has been formed from a group of developers including Wimpey, Bovis, Barratt, and Tarmac to plan a new "country town" at Tillingham, in south Essex, a Green Belt area that now separates sprawl from sprawl. To justify their plan, the developers cite the increased projections of the rate of "household formation". They are backed by ministers who see planning and land use controls as an unjustified interference with the market.

Would Patrick Jenkin be wise to let this go through? The North, and most cities, are Labour; the South, and the rural areas, are Tory. But to let the cities and the North decay would be very bad politics for the Conservatives. There is no group so vociferous in support of the Green Belt, so hostile to newcomers, as the last lot to move in. The small towns and the villages of the South may, in general, vote Conservative; but that may change if the Tories become known as the spoilers of the countryside.

The problem of the inner cities will not go away. It is in the Tories' interest, as much as Labour's, to revive the inner city, revitalize its industry, and retain its social structure and population. It helps "our" areas, yes; but it helps "their" too. If only Patrick Jenkin could see it.

The author is Labour MP for Blackburn.

moreover... Miles Kingston

In the far mists of fogeydom

About a year ago the term Young Fogey began to become popular to describe the sort of youngish man who was a bit rightish, liked church architecture, went around on a bike, was fastidious about words and took elitist as being a compliment. He tended to be called Roger Scruton or A. N. Wilson, he liked John Betjeman and he looked up to Peter Simple as a chronicler of our times. I should have seen it a step coming but didn't; now there is a *Young Fogies Handbook* coming out, edited by Suzanne Lowry, which delineates this coterie quite sharply.

The name may be new, but the concept is a little older. I have been doing a little family research and have found to my surprise that I come from a long line of young fogies myself. My grandfather, A. N. Kingston, was even before the First World War a fierce enemy of the nouvelle fogey, a sure sign of the young fogey. Of course, it wasn't called *cuisine nouvelle* then, but he led a great campaign against the Ennate Cordiale on grounds that every time Edward VII went to France he brought back a bevy of French chefs spreading dangerous new ideas about cooking. Down with cuisine cordiale, was his war cry, and for this reason if for no other he welcomed the collapse of France in 1914.

His father, Geoffrey de la Kingston, was a bespectacled, owlish figure who used to tour Britain on a bike in search of Victorian churches. (The "de la" was a mere affectation which he had picked up cheap on a biking tour of France, and was not hereditary.) He was not an admirer of Victorian churches, *à la* Betjeman - indeed, he saw them as a monstrous modernity threatening his beloved Georgian buildings, and spent most of his time pleading with architects not to put them up, when the failed, he would try to sabotage their construction with his trusty umbrella.

Before him came "Mad" Jack Kingston, a contemporary of Byron at Cambridge, who saw Napoleon's campaigns as another attempt to establish French cuisine throughout Europe. He hated Georgian architecture, which he thought was a betrayal of Hawksmoor, and toured Britain on a hobby-horse trying to get local magistrates to ban the waltz. Byron wrote to him from Missolonghi: "You would like Greece, Jack, where they neither wait nor put up naive churches nor even cook rich sauces *à la Française*. On my return I shall tell you about it."

more fully, thou young fogey". Alas, the reunion never took place.

Another ancestor, 100 years earlier, was Colonel Wheatcroft Kingston, who took arms against the Old and Young Pretender, seeing the Auld Alliance as an unusually sneaky way of getting French cooking into England from the north. Nor could he stomach the idea of the kilt, preferring to dress in "my old tweeds and comfortable shoes". He made several tours of England in a sedan chair, setting fire to Queen Anne mansions, which according to him were a travesty of Tudor ideals.

This militant streak was probably inherited from Isaac Kingston, who toured Britain with Cromwell's armies tearing down church interiors which offended him. Author of *The Young Transients Handbook*, he was commissioned by Cromwell to write a new cook book for the British army emphasizing traditional recipes, but the Restoration took place before he could finish it, and he died while composing a fierce diatribe in Latin against chefs imported by Charles II.

The family tree grows a little thin in Tudor times, though there was an Edmund Kingston who applauded the Reformation on the unusual grounds that "Papist cookings did rot the soul". He is known to have burnt down the odd Tudor mansion or two, and it may have been for this that he was burnt at the stake in Mary's reign - his last words to the executioner were: "Plain roast meat as crowd polted him with tomatoes and onions and he died in a sauce bolognaise."

I believe, too, I must be related to the medieval fogey Simon de Chaucer but who refused to go with him on a tour of Kent for fear of ending up at Canterbury Cathedral, which he considered a frightfully vulgar example of Norman building. Strange, because he was descended from Odo Kingston, a Norman. Most Norman families claim to have come over with the Conquest. Odo was different, as he came over in 1065 in a purely private capacity to escape from French cooking and have some of that good old down home Saxon food. He was only to know a year of happiness; ever after he was caustically dismissed by William's court as "li juvenile fogey".

And that is all for today, as I must put on my bicycle clips and pedal to *The Times* to deliver this quill-written copy.

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CENTRE BACKWARD

Mr Francis Pym is nothing if not a political man. Few of his colleagues would look to him for a fine-tuned strategy for industrial investment or a new solution to crises in the exchange rate. Many, however, will read his speech last night for clues to the future prospects of the Tory Party, its electoral tactics and its leadership.

The doubters about his fitness to advance economic policy will have all their views confirmed. His speech in Oxford contained nothing new of substance. He attacked the Government's portrayal of the economic recovery. He argued that the Government was wrong to promote its economic prospects on the basis of the year 1981 - the low point of the recession. "If one takes 1979 as the base", he said, "the growth in the GDP in the five years to 1984 has been little more than three per cent in real terms or just over half a per cent a year". He argued against the regional imbalances in the recovery, saying that only the south-east, south-west and East Anglia were better off now than in 1979. He pointed out that manufacturing output in 1984 was seven per cent less than in 1979. He called for an end to "massive deflation".

The fact is that between mid-1981 and the end of 1985 Britain's real GDP will have risen by about two-and-three-quarters per cent a year, making it the only country apart from the United States to have regained its earlier growth rates. The fact is that this growth has not brought a return to high inflation. The fact is that growth in manufacturing output in 1984 is up three-and-a-half per cent, the biggest rise since 1973 and that the CBI members report their strongest manufacturing order books since 1977. The fact is that it is difficult to describe an economic policy as "massive deflation" when money GDP is planned to rise by nine per cent next year with an inflation rate of five or six per cent.

Mr Pym is not a numbers man at heart unless the numbers refer to votes cast for his Party. He should be judged on his own political terms not on his powers over economic statistics. On this ground how does he stand? Is he attempting to make Conservative voters see the economic recovery that is going on about them? Clearly not. Is he even attempting to warn his colleagues of the dangers of radical policies to reform rates and the welfare state? He is not. Instead he is indulging in (and losing) a statistics battle about the baseline on which to hold an economic argument. The man who would be the Tory conscience has become its political archaeologist, sifting the evidence of monetary failures in the early years of Mrs Thatcher's first term like some leashed academic.

So what are Mr Pym's real motives? His speech emphasized the new "group's" concern to change policies, not change the leadership. He eschewed political ambition. In the first words of his speech he announced "the formation of a group of back-bench Conservative MPs of which I have agreed to be Chairman". He spoke of "trying not to undermine the Government's objectives".

There is nothing new in the formation of a back-bench Conservative group to pressurize the Government whips. Behind the scenes these are often effective, as Mr Pym - a former chief whip - knows well. By coming out into the open, however, such pressure groups tend not only to frighten potential Conservative friends who are reluctant to stand up and be counted but also to inspire a backlash amongst the loyalist majority.

So why come out into the open? In Mr Pym's words, "we do not feel disloyal". "Differences always tend to be highlighted", he said "and sometimes they need to be if they are to be resolved". So by coming out into

the open, he wants to resolve his policy differences with Mrs Thatcher's government. He wants her to change tack, and thinks that a full-frontal assault is the way to do it.

Will he succeed either in destabilizing her policies or in destabilizing her position? Some of Mrs Thatcher's more cynical supporters argue that the new group is harmless, that its announcement is well timed from their point of view since it will blow itself out at a time when there is little electoral threat to the Government. Those, however, who have a more respectful attitude to Mr Pym are more circumspect. They say that even if many wet MP's resent the call to stand up and be counted, the resulting appeal to the Party centre could start a ball rolling in these quiet times that, when Conservative Centre Forward finally chooses to strike, could have become a dangerous weapon.

The Government has to take this possibility seriously. If Mr Pym's speech had a coherent theme it was that the Government is too satisfied with its performance and that he (backed by the CBI, ICI, GEC and the Church) is not satisfied. Will those who are not satisfied with the word appears ten times in the speech please join Conservative Centre Forward?

It is a simple call - and may be a successful one. But those who attempt to follow it should look to his final analysis. He wants more borrowing. He wants more Government intervention. He wants "mutual understanding" between Government and unions. He wants a more stable exchange rate. It is a familiar list. Many Socialists and Social Democrats would not dissent but the opposition parties do at least have the courage to outline the national investment banks, the exchange controls, and incomes policies that would be imposed at the same time. Mr Pym has not. He is nothing if not a political man.

THE SUN HAS RISEN

In the House of Commons today the Labour Party will launch an attack on the Government's alleged failure to commit enough public funds to activities which are fashionably described as "sunrise industries" and "industries of the future". There will no doubt be the standard familiar and rather tedious complaints that a lack of government support has been responsible for Britain's retreat in an international competitive struggle.

The Government would have a role if it could be demonstrated that the private sector, and more particularly the financial system, had overlooked the attractions of high-tech companies. In fact, Britain has a wide and impressive range of institutions which have supported the growth of new industries without any special prompting from the Government. In addition to specialist venture capital funds and organizations like Investors in Industry, the banks and the Stock Exchange have shown awareness of the risks and particular requirements of high-tech financing.

All the clearing banks have subsidiaries which can arrange equity finance for fledgling businesses, while the Stock Exchange established the unlisted securities market in November 1980. The USM has undoubtedly inspired entre-

preneurship in activities which can involve considerable risk as well as advanced technology.

It is true that Britain is a long way behind the USA and Japan in several of the new industries. But this seems to be a European problem, not something specific to this country, and may be inevitable while European companies have home markets smaller and more constricting than those enjoyed by their American or Japanese rivals. By comparison with West Germany and France, Britain has performed rather well in high-tech.

The clearest example of Britain's relatively good position is provided by the computer industry. Production of semiconductor is about the same in Britain and Germany, both of which are some distance ahead of France, while consumption is higher here. If anything the gap between British and German consumption is widening at present because of the spectacular advances in our personal computer industry. It may unsettle Labour MPs if Mr Tebbit, using statistics in his Department's publication *British business*, tells them this afternoon that output of electronic data processing equipment virtually trebled between late 1981 and late 1984.

The main objection to the

Government's approach to the high-tech industries is not that there is too little aid, but that there is too much. Despite recent reorganization at the Department of Trade and Industry there is still a plethora of support schemes, project grants, cheap credits and so on. The DTI is able to grant 20 per cent of the investment cost of projects involving the production or design of advanced microelectronic, fibre optic and optoelectronic components. An industrialist in the West Midlands might reasonably ask why a government so generous to unproved technologies should be so reluctant to assist British Leyland.

The Government is right to be scrutinizing requests for high-tech aid with more care and a greater sense of commercial reality. In a recent speech Mr Tebbit said that the recovery in company profits would enable his Department to reduce the proportion of public money needed to finance innovation projects. In his words, government assistance would be "focused more sharply" than in the past. It is a pity that the Labour Party is not also able to understand that good high-tech businesses should depend on private profit, not public charity, if they are to succeed in the long run.

THANKS TO KHRUSHCHEV - AND NATO

Today the Austrians commemorate the 30th anniversary of the State Treaty which restored their independence after years of Nazi rule followed by a decade of division under the four-power occupation forces. They have good reason to celebrate; Vienna avoided the tragic fate of Berlin and now plays host to international conferences such as the present gathering of foreign ministers who should be inspired by the example of one east-west agreement which has stood the test of time. Yet Austrians tend to date their new era of peace and prosperity not from the signing of the treaty in May, but from their declaration of permanent neutrality on October 26th 1955, after the last foreign soldier had left. And they are aware that authoritarian regimes respect neutrality only when it suits them.

Why did the USSR agree to withdraw from its zone of occupation? It is better known for maintaining control with tanks than for relinquishing territory with a stroke of the pen. Soviet spokesmen claim that they would have restored an independent Austria even before 1955 were it not for the United States and its NATO partners who wished to turn Austria into "that aggressive organization's Alpine fortress".

Berlin conference of February 1954 at which the Austrian representative denied that his country had any intention of joining a military alliance, and at bi-lateral talks in Moscow in April 1955 the Austrians undertook to maintain in perpetuity a neutrality similar to that of Switzerland. But Moscow's present account is incomplete, and does not even mention the Soviet leader most responsible for withdrawing the occupation forces.

After Stalin's death Soviet priorities changed. Nikita Khrushchev hoped that withdrawal from Austria would encourage West Europeans to regard their military and political union as less urgent, and that it would strengthen his arguments on the question of German reunification at the July 1955 Geneva summit. West Germany, with a greater population and stronger economy than East Germany, was about to join NATO; a neutral Germany expanding trade with the Soviet bloc, would be greatly to Moscow's advantage. Khrushchev wished to obtain western recognition for the status quo in eastern Europe, increasingly restless since Stalin died, and intended to restore relations with Yugoslavia after the Tito-Stalin rift.

expand its influence further by crude force, perhaps a more subtle policy of "peaceful co-existence" would now pay greater dividends. Mr Khrushchev persuaded his colleagues to reduce considerably Soviet troop numbers, certainly an unnecessary drain on resources as the USSR developed missiles stocks and highly mobile forces. He removed Soviet troops from Finland and returned the port of Porkkala, but retained other Finnish territory occupied in the Winter War and insisted on establishing close economic ties.

Moreover, although Khrushchev had to overcome the opposition of Molotov and others, relinquishing the Soviet zone in Austria - situated as it was between Czechoslovakia and Hungary, with a capitalist West Vienna in its centre - was not a serious military loss; it was more than compensated for by the creation of a neutral Swiss-Austrian belt separating NATO forces in West Germany from Italy and Yugoslavia. Austria even agreed to pay for the return of enterprises seized by the USSR during the occupation, and promised to retain close economic ties. Austrians enjoy a life incomparably better than that of their neighbours across the barbed wire divide. But without the strength of NATO their neutrality would be precarious.

A Tory voice of disillusionment

From Mr Robert Saunders

Sir, You and others who urge the Prime Minister to change her style have got it wrong. I cannot speak for the Tories, the Liberals, the Pym or the Howells, but I suspect that I do speak for many ordinary one-time supporters of the Conservative Party who have become disillusioned by the Government's economic policy and who recently switched our votes in the local government elections, and possibly for others who loyally still voted Conservative but who wondered how much longer they could conscientiously do so.

It is not presentation, but policy; it is not Mrs Thatcher, but Thatcherism that we find so disturbing. No economic theory, no matter how well argued, will overcome the commonsense belief that idle hands should be put to work doing the many jobs which need to be done, or that a Government which cannot do this without causing inflation must be grossly incompetent.

No, we are prepared to be won back into the Tory Party, but we will not be bamboozled back.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT SAUNDERS,
Friar Mayne Farm,
Broadmayne,
Dorchester,
Dorset,
May 11.

From Mr H. M. McDonald
Sir, I wonder whether Conservative Centre Forward is going to score an own goal?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
H. M. McDONALD,
64 Hammond Lane,
Great Warley,
Brentwood,
Essex.
May 12.

Morality and pay

From the Reverend A. Graham Helliier

Sir, A week ago (leading article, May 3) you appeared to support Sir Keith Joseph when he said that questions of pay are not settled philosophically or morally. If teachers and nurses are selected to have their pay reduced year after year there is presumably no question of morality involved.

If £400m is spent on a Falklands airfield, £40m on helping Scottish businesses to pay their rates and at the same time it is made harder for teachers to pay their mortgages, then presumably no question of morality is involved.

Is this the new Toryism which sanctions Marxism in its belief that economic forces are the masters of us all and that morality and philosophy must bow down to them? But are not market forces simply the averaging out of all our choices, and heaven help us if we lose all direction by simply failing to do what is right?

Those, Sir, who proclaim individualism as the supreme virtue may try to dispense with all morality, but let not a Government which disavows all moral obligation to its employees turn round and castigate them for their lack of social responsibility.

There is an acid Toryism which could dissolve all that binds us as a people, answerable to and belonging to one another.

This week, however, you have no doubt that "the moral dimension comes first" (leader, May 10). You will do us all a service if you can persuade the Government to clarify the basis of its morality - and do have a word with Sir Keith.

Yours sincerely,
A. GRAHAM HELLIIER,
Moamsham End,
Marden,
Hereford.
May 11.

Developing solar power

From Mr Stephen Dollond

Sir, The article by your Science Editor on "Cheap solar power from Britain" (April 18) quotes Professor Spear, of Dundee University, as saying that neither British companies nor the National Research and Development Corporation (now part of BTG) showed an interest in his pioneering work on amorphous silicon, now taken up by US and Japanese manufacturers.

I should like to point out that this is not so. Several large UK companies have spent large sums of money, much of this in Government grants, developing his ideas with little apparent success to date. NRDC was involved in negotiations with the companies concerned. The prospect of successful exploitation was prejudiced by the fact that NRDC was unable to obtain patent protection due to premature publication by Professor Spear and his colleagues.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN DOLLOND,
Marketing Director,
British Technology Group,
101 Newington Causeway, SE1,
April 22.

Time on remand

From Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, MP for Knowsley North (Labour)

Sir, Your leader of May 7 summarizing a bulletin from the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders on the plight of remand prisoners said that: "More recently Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, tackled the scandal of prolonged detention of remand prisoners in police cells." This is untrue.

Lessons from Bradford fire disaster

From the Director of the World Fire Statistics Centre

Sir, May I pick up an important point in your perceptive leader (May 13), in which you call for the terms of reference of a judicial enquiry to be wide enough to allow the tribunal to draw out all lessons of general application.

The sad story of Government fire strategy throughout the world is that, with few exceptions, politicians are apathetic towards the problems of fire costs (human and property) until a disaster like Bradford occurs. Compared with road safety, crime prevention and industrial safety, fire prevention is a political Cinderella. Yet fire costs most advanced countries around 1 per cent of gross domestic product and cost the UK over £2,000m in 1981 (the latest year for which the United Nations fire statistics have published figures).

In a recent Canadian fire study there were two major conclusions: 1. There is a critical weakness in data on which to develop an attack on the problems of fire protection... the deficiency in statistics may be taken as indicative of the long-term lack of concern for the fire problem on the part of governments.

2. There is a lack of a concerted attack on the fire problem. A similar position applies in most countries, yet many fire problems, like many health problems, are international in character. The World Health Organisation has eliminated smallpox by collecting international statistics, using them as a base for international research

not available from the local authority, or else the bureaucracy is too complex for them to obtain help.

All too often they end up in a residential home, at public expense, where they become "institutionalised", and their vacated house rapidly ceases to be part of the national housing stock.

For the last few years our charity, in conjunction with other charities, local housing associations and other local groups, has been supporting a number of pilot projects in many parts of the UK to assist old people to obtain the basic repairs needed to their houses and to remain in their own homes.

It is to be hoped that the DoE will listen to comments on the Green Paper from those involved in these pilot projects; perhaps then these old people will be able to remain in comfort in their own homes and not find it necessary to move into expensive institutions. As a by-product, part of the nation's housing stock will be preserved for the next generations.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. WRIGHT, Director,
Housing Associations Charitable Trust,
175 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

British car industry

From the Director of The Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders Ltd

Sir, Your leader of May 6 comes to conclusions on the viability of the British motor industry before considering an obvious option for the Government which could change the whole picture. Our tax regime distorts the present situation, stifling demand for cars at home and inhibiting the exporting-earning component sector which supplies cars, trucks and buses.

Britain used to have the highest level of car ownership in Europe. It now has one of the lowest. The considerable quality and care for the customer in the motor industry before the market is being constrained by relatively low national wealth, prohibitive motoring taxation and an outdated, inadequate and badly maintained road system. Improvements in these areas would help to boost a car market which is currently contracting from its 1983 peak of 1.79 million units.

Thanks to recent improvements in product quality and care for the customer, the motor industry in Britain is capable - given the right economic environment - of taking a larger share of a bigger domestic market.

Removal of the ten per cent car tax (introduced as a temporary

40 years on

From Mr Anthony Montague Browne

Sir, If the Russians succeed in burying the truth on the origins of the Second World War and ascribing total credit for victory to themselves, the fault is partially our own. During the war our leaders, including Winston Churchill, were fulsome in their praise of Soviet Russia. Not so mentioned at all, it tended to be in terms of complaints about inadequate aid, deficient will to fight and even hints of Western moves for a separate peace.

It is a feat that George Orwell would have gasped at for the Soviet leaders to make lengthy speeches about the Second World War without even mentioning the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939, and we here are also strangely reticent. Right up to the German attack in 1941 the Russian Press gloated over British defeats.

On the fall of Paris in 1940

studies, implementing the research findings and steadily monitoring progress.

Problems such as arson cannot be eliminated but could be dramatically lessened if tackled in this way. But at present international initiative on arson tends to be taken by fire protection associations, frequently short of time and money, rather than by governments.

Tragic though the Bradford disaster has been, if the Government seize the opportunity to cut fire costs, hundreds of lives and millions of pounds could be saved, thus making the biggest breakthrough in UK fire strategy since the Great Fire of London led to such innovations as new building regulations and the start of world-wide fire insurance.

Yours faithfully,
R.T.D. WILMOT, Director,
World Fire Statistics Centre,
18 Chemin Rieu, 1208 Geneva,
May 13.

From the Director of Programmes, Yorkshire Television

Sir, Far from forbidding BBC news to use our coverage of the Bradford football fire (report, May 13) Yorkshire Television specifically, by telecast, gave them permission to take footage, as you would expect in such tragic circumstances. The pictures were duly shown on numerous BBC TV bulletins, as your reporters could have seen.

JOHN FAIRLEY,
Yorkshire Television,
The Television Centre,
Kirkstall Road, Leeds.

Housing for the old

From the Director of the Housing Associations Charitable Trust

Sir, Page 3 of your issue of May 10 had three adjacent news items by separate correspondents on different aspects of the same problem.

In reporting a conference by the Building Employers' Confederation, you highlighted the scandal of the rapidly decaying state of our housing stock. About half of the owner-occupied houses are owned by pensioners, many on very low incomes, and their houses are deteriorating faster than other buildings.

On the same page you report the plans to stop old people moving, many of them out of deteriorating houses that they cannot afford to maintain, into non-private residential homes at the expense of DHSS.

Between these two articles is a report on the DoE Green Paper on home improvement grants and repair grants.

Many old people on low incomes who live in their own houses wish nothing more than to be able to remain where they are, with their houses in reasonable condition. Too often the comparatively small sums needed to achieve these repairs are

measure in 1973) would be a major step in the right direction. Britain is the only car-producing country in the world to tax its motor industry in this way, making cars the only consumer durables to be penalised by a special tax on top of VAT. An imported washing machine, refrigerator, television, video recorder or microwave oven is subject only to VAT, but a British-built car is taxed at an effective 24.6 per cent.

And better roads would make it more acceptable and practicable to own a car. The investment needed would also have a deflationary effect by reducing freight costs and the cost of motoring - and would create more jobs in the process.

The support given to the motor industry by the Government has greatly augmented the industry's impressive recovery efforts. But it is a case of giving with one hand and taking away with the other. More must be done - urgently - to create an environment in which Britain's motor industry can survive and flourish, certainly before taking far-reaching decisions on its future shape.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FRASER, Director,
The Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders Ltd,
Forbes House, Halkin Street, SW1.

Molotov sent a telegram of congratulations to Van Ribbentrop. In late 1940 the State Department published an admirably illuminating selection of documents captured from the German Foreign Office. It was called, as far as I can recollect, "Nazi-Soviet Relations" and was edited by Dr Raymond Sontag.

The extent of Soviet collaboration with the Nazis was both astonishing and nauseating. As fears of a German onslaught began to seep through in early 1941, the tone of communications from the Russians became increasingly whining and self-justificatory, on the lines that they were fully living up to the spirit of the 1939 Treaty and the Germans were not.

By all means let us have détente. But, "Those who do not learn from history..."

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MONTAGUE BROWNE,
11 St James's Place, SW1.



ON THIS DAY

MAY 15 1948

Prior to World War I Palestine was part of the Ottoman empire. Some Zionists had settled in Tel Aviv and aspirations for the foundations of a national home for Jews were fuelled by the Balfour declaration of November 1917. A British mandate was established in 1920 and immigration of Jews increased, bringing them into conflict with the Arabs. Following World War II Jewish nationalist organisations engaged in an armed struggle against British forces and in 1947 a UN committee recommended the partition of Palestine. On May 14 1948 the mandate came to an end. The first president of the new state was Dr Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952); the first Prime Minister being Mr David Ben Gurion (1886-1973).

NEW ISRAELI STATE OF ISRAEL PROCLAIMED

TEL AVIV. May 14.-The birth of a Jewish State of Israel was proclaimed here this afternoon at an assembly of members of the Jewish National Council. The proclamation said: "We members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assembly on the day of the termination of the British mandate for Palestine, and by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and by resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine to be called 'Israel'."

The proclamation was broadcast over the newly created Israeli broadcasting station "Voice of Israel" and was made eight hours before the mandate officially terminated because Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath.

The proclamation also said: "As from the termination of the mandate at midnight tonight and until the setting up of duly elected bodies in accordance with the constitution to be drawn up by the Constituent Assembly set later than October 1, 1948, the present National Council shall act as the provisional Government of the State of Israel."

"The State will be open to all Jewish immigrants, will promote the development of the country for all its inhabitants, will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice, and peace taught by the Hebrew prophets, will uphold full social and political equality for all its citizens without distinction of race, creed, or sex, and will guarantee full freedom of education and culture."

SAFEGUARDS FOR SHRINES

The proclamation also promised safeguards for religious shrines and places of all religions, and that the State would dedicate itself "to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

The proclamation appealed to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in building their State and sought admission into the United Nations. It called upon the Arab inhabitants of the "State of Israel" to return to ways of peace, and promised them full and equal citizenship and representation in the State bodies and institutions. Peace was also offered to the neighbouring Arab peoples.

The declaration concluded: "With trust in Almighty God we set our hand to this declaration in the city of Tel Aviv on this Sabbath eve, the fifth day of Iyar, 5708 (according to the Jewish calendar), May 14, 1948." - Reuter.

Doctors and advertising

From Dr F. G. Ferreira

Sir, "Swallow hard, Doctor, it might do you good," writes Stephen Aris on the subject of advertising by doctors (May 1). It probably would; but I wonder if it would do the patient any good. Certainly no evidence in support of patient benefit is produced in the article.

The Harrow Health Care Centre can hardly be held up as a triumph of medical advertising or of the economy of private general practice. Their drug costs appear to be about the average for National Health Service general practitioners and indeed greater than the average for East Anglian GPs. I doubt that they provide their medical services for 24 hours a day 365 days a year for the £16 per patient per annum which is the average for this area.

The provision of medical care in the National Health Service is not governed by the rules of a free market economy. GPs do not have complete freedom to choose where in the country they practise. Under the regulation of the Medical Practices Committee they are directed by positive financial incentive to "under-doctor" areas and away from prosperous "over-doctor" areas by very strong restrictions.

The introduction of advertising will quickly be followed by pressure from GPs to be allowed to practise where they want with the inevitable drift of doctors away from unpopular areas to areas with greater potential for attracting income-generating patients by advertising.

Yours sincerely,
F. G. FERREIRA,
20 Willow Green,
Needhamworth,
Cambridgeshire.

Quote... unquote

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, James Fenton complains (book review, May 9) that he has been the victim of what might be termed a *para pro toto* on the part of Hamish Hamilton, who have made a selective use of his review of one of their books. A similar experience, if I remember aright, befell James Agate years ago.

In writing about some play that had not pleased him he said that it was "a load of rubbish" but some people seemed to like this sort of thing and it seemed likely to hurt for ever. The notices outside the theatre said simply "Likely to run for ever (Agate)".

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge.
May 9.

THE ARTS

Maria Ewing opens the Glyndebourne season next week in *Carmen*. Interview by John Higgins

A new set of castanets for Carmen

Bizet's *Carmen* has been hovering in the Glyndebourne wings for many years. Moran Caplat pressed its claims regularly, but he never succeeded in getting it on stage during his lengthy tenure as general administrator. It was also at the back of Maria Ewing's mind when she made her debut at the Sussex opera house in 1978 in *Cost Jan tulle*. She mentioned the fact to Peter Hall, director of that production, one evening on the train back to London. Although they had met for the first time only a few days earlier, Hall's reaction was immediate: "If ever you decide to sing *Carmen* I'll direct you in it."

And so it has come to pass that Maria Ewing, now Lady Hall, sings the title role in *Carmen*, the first of the season's new production at Glyndebourne, staged by her husband, opening on Monday. She sang the small part of Mercedes when she was 23 at the San Francisco Opera. Three years earlier she had been studying *Carmen* herself with her teacher, Jennie Tourel, well known as Bizet's gypsy in her day. "After one session which had gone quite well Jennie turned round and said 'Goddamit, I'd give you my castanets if I had them still'. I knew very well

that she had no intention of parting with them. But it was a nice thing to say."

Thirty-five could be just the right age for Maria Ewing to sing her first *Carmen*, but there are, as the world knows, an awful lot of *Carmens* about, including those on screens large and small. Has she been to see them? Here Miss Ewing, who normally speaks very directly, becomes a bit guarded: "Well, let's say I've seen bits of them...". The implication is left quite clear.

Sir Peter Hall is well known for frequently changing tack during his rehearsal period, which lasts a full month for a new production at Glyndebourne. But it seems probable that *Carmen*, in the first French opera he has staged, will be a fairly earthy character and not the haughty, lady some mezzos affect.

"Peter and I have, naturally enough, had preliminary talks at home. We've agreed that *Carmen* is not a tragic figure until the very end, she causes her own death because she's probably not a very bright lady. She's not vulgar, but she hasn't got much taste either. In the last act, when she turns out in what fancy she has, her costume and shoes don't

quite match. What she has is allure: she's dangerous in a playful sort of way. She will give things, including herself."

And what about the "Spanish" elements? Karajan brought a whole Spanish dance troupe in for his current Salzburg production, with a complete tourist show at Lillies Pastia's tavern in Act II.

"I'm afraid I don't go for all that. Who said *Carmen* was a Spanish opera? It's a French opera. When we were kids my sister was a Spanish aficionado: all that stamping and olés! But I put that away long ago. I don't want to be choreographed - I'd rather fake. There is no way that *Carmen* is a flamenco dancer: she is sexy when she dances because she dances with herself. I reckon that Jimmy Levine got it right years ago when we were talking about Lillies Pastia's one day at the Met. 'What's Pastia's like?' I asked. 'Why', he replied, 'it's a fun place. It's where the in-crowd go'."

And the Met is where this production and Maria Ewing go next season after the Glyndebourne run. It is difficult to conceive two houses more different in size or atmosphere. Some adjustments will have to be made. "Obviously the Met cannot

act as a jewel box where every piece is clearly visible. But I think once an interpretation has been fixed you cannot change it. Production can be inflated but I'm not sure that interpretations can."

The Met and Glyndebourne are the two houses where Maria Ewing is most likely to be heard these days. Has that been planned deliberately so that the Met is there to maintain the "big house" technique and stamina? "That's probably true if I search deep down inside me, but I don't really think that strategically. I sing at Glyndebourne because that's the place where I met Peter and it's where we live. The Met, let's face it, makes you in some ways a part of a factory, but in return it does give that New York frisson and grand sense of occasion."

The next part Maria Ewing is considering, although no contracts are yet signed, is Richard Strauss's *Salome*. It is not a role normally assigned to the lyric mezzo, which is the way the Ewing voice is usually described. "I've never sung it, but I hate that title. In fact I hate all titles that try to drive me into a pigeon-hole. When my epitaph comes to be written I hope it will just say: 'MARIA EWING - SINGER'."



Maria Ewing: 'I hate being pigeon-holed'

Television Learning to live with war

The most immediate way of dealing with warfare is simply to chronicle its progress, since there seems to be always a voyeuristic interest - either on the part of the film-makers or of the audience - in recording the carnage. *Barbarians* (Thames) was much more interesting than that; it was concerned with the civil war in Lebanon and, although there were some graphic images of the fighting, the emphasis rested upon the private experiences of three Lebanese women who have been forced, in the cant phrase, to "come to terms" with life in a divided and disturbed country.

It is, as one of them said, a "continuous war" and, as a result, the single most important quality to emerge from these women was one of courage against all the odds. And with that courage goes both a sense of "community", however narrowly it must now be defined, and an extraordinary ability to enjoy each moment of peace or happiness snatched from a general destruction which has already claimed the lives of 100,000 people.

There was of course a note of desperation in even their most relaxed moments - as one refugee remarked, "When a bird is killed it appears to dance but in fact it is writhing in pain" - but last night's documentary at least offered a demonstration of the persistence and momentum of "ordinary" life in a place and time when it is most threatened. And yet it was the most enduring images, the most poignant ones were of the waste and horror inflicted upon human beings as a result of a conflict which no one seemed properly to understand.

Peter Ackroyd

● The fifth Almeida Festival, from June 8 to July 8, includes a celebration of American experimental music from 1905 to 1985 entitled *At the Tomb of Charles Ives*. American composers attending the festival include Conlon Nancarrow, Philip Glass, Morton Feldman, Frederic Rzewski and the 88-year-old Virgil Thomson.

● The composer George Benjamin has won the 1985 award of the Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund, worth \$3,500.

Lonely Cowboy Tricycle

Alfred Fagon's play, commissioned as the second production in the Tricycle's black theatre season, is a rare example of an ethnic piece that escapes the usual entertainment or agit-prop categories and enters the more complicated world of tragic-comedy, suggesting the possible emergence of a Caribbean O'Casey.

The title refers both to a Brixton café and to its proprietor, Flight, (Jim Findley), a reformed drug pedlar, now pushing nothing more illegal than home-made punch. Of course, these things take time, and on the day the café opens Flight is out on the town chasing up ganja debts, much to the fury of his girl-friend Gina, who is stuck behind the bar rehearsing her grievances to the clientele while keeping them waiting for tea.

Lots of people pop in. There

Theatre Café society in Brixton

is Dalton, a black community poet who has to be regularly bribed; and Theena, a leggy barmaid whom Gina takes on as a waitress. There is Jack, who has just joined the Met, and finds the place goes very quiet when he comes in wearing his helmet. There are also two drug-pushers, Wally and Stanley, who are by no means reconciled to losing Flight's professional services.

The piece bowls merrily along, enabling you to get to know the crowd and get attuned to their jaunty, sardonic speech rhythms. A story begins coming into focus when Stanley makes off with the waitress, and then gets jailed for stealing Wally's bicycle. But the whole atmos-

phere, even Gina's blazing rows, is one of amiable comedy performed by ordinary people you would meet on any Brixton street. Then Stanley returns to the café, having staked out a great new ganja market in prison; and, like a flash of summer lightning, the stage is filled with knives and guns for a massacre that also spells the death of The Lonely Cowboy. Policeman Jack walks on in his civvies and blinks, helplessly out of his depth.

No doubt it could happen like that; but on stage it simply leaves you blinking too. Mr Fagon has assembled the piece on the "and" principle with small attention to cause and

effect. Clients arrive, gossip, and depart in formless sequence that fails to stir any desire to know what happens next; and, crucially, omits any preparation for the last minute switch from neighbourhood comedy to underworld violence. This, of course, is an outsider's view; and Monday night's West Indian audience were rocking with appreciation at Mr Fagon's dialogue, particularly when it touched on "front-line" policing and bossy womenfolk. My feeling is that they would have relished it even more if the author had a better grip of stage narrative.

Some of the figures in Nicholas Kent's productions (particularly the two pushers) are flimsily defined. Calvin Simpson's Jack is an expert low-key study of a nice guy bewildered at the suspicion his uniform arouses; and there is a smashing, pug-nosed performance from Angela Wynter as the lone cowboy's better half.

Irving Wardle

Sarah Hemming reports on the Glasgow Mayfest

How to catch the spirit of a city

It is not often that you see a standing ovation; but I did see one at this year's Glasgow Mayfest, indicating that with one production at least, Mayfest has achieved its awesome self-imposed brief to meet the spirit of the city. Now in its third year, the two-week long festival matches international with community events, always mindful that the many-sided character of Glasgow incorporates both Scottish opera and a strong socialist tradition.

This year there are perhaps fewer cheerily idiosyncratic international productions than

last year, although two companies from Chicago are giving British premieres here (Widom Bridge Theatre Company and the Joel Hall Dancers, both to be seen in London as part of the American Festival). What Mayfest has definitely done, however, is to provide a good focus for some of the important Scottish companies, one of these being 7:84 Scotland, in a lively, powerful and moving production of Joe Corrie's *In Time of Strife*.

A life miner himself, Corrie wrote the play in anger and frustration at the end of the

1926 strike. This is its second revival by 7:84, the first being for their "Clyde Built" season in 1982, since when it has clearly taken on new relevance. Corrie, not unlike O'Casey, shows the effect of a large political struggle on individuals in a small community. Setting the play at the end of the strike when the tide is turning, he presents two families caught between principles and personal hardship, and turns the action on the opening rift between blacklegs and strikers.

It is a very humane account. Corrie's clear understanding of the complexity and confusion of personal and political motivation making each of his characters sympathetic, from the outlawed blackleg to the embittered striker, and the issues it raises are uncannily familiar even to the emergence of the women as a strong force.



Tom Watson as Jock in *In Time of Strife*

As drama the threat to its effect lies in the potential for it to slip into gloomy and heavy-handed naturalism, a threat avoided here thanks to David Hayman's lively direction of a strong cast. Tom Watson finds all Corrie's humour in Jock, the bitter, hardworn striker, as does Vincent Friel in his son, an endearingly recognizable tactless youth. The latter's squabbles with his sister make for a great deal of comedy but also raise one serious question that has yet to be answered - what effect the strike might have had on the miners' children.

Geoff Rose's immense set states the scale of the pit, working or not - in the miners' lives, flanking their living quarters with three huge tunnel ends which give Hayman an upper level to stage unseen tensions. This is a hit and miss technique, but it works beautifully at the end, where Hayman isolates individuals scarred by the strike on the upper level, so bringing out the spirit in Corrie's play that he has stressed all along: intense concern at the disintegration of

communities coupled with renewed determination to survive.

Equally topical, but more overtly so, is Wild Cat Theatre Company's new production. Given the recent developments in Nicaragua, *Business in the Backyard*, written by David Anderson, could scarcely be more relevant. This is straightforward musical agit prop, with the minimum of shading and maximum effect.

Outlining developments in Nicaragua in the first half and conditions in El Salvador in the second, Wild Cat's unequivocal message that America has no business in the backyard is put across passionately and well to strong rhythmic Latin American music. The company are stronger, however, on group singing than solos and staging sometimes lacks imagination.

In production terms only the high spot of the evening has to be a CIA agent doing a honky-tonk number - if the same wit and invention ran through all the staging, the production would be as strong usually as it is musically. The company's message brought them a standing ovation that handsomely repaid their gamble in taking on one of Glasgow's large popular theatres.

The Scottish Theatre Company has also drawn on popular theatre but for very different ends: bringing together two of Scotland's best known comedians, John Grieve and Walter Carr (*Waiting for Godot*). Directed by Peter Dews, these tramps are not stylised vaudeville but very human and sadly recognizable. John Grieve's Vladimir is well disposed intellectually optimistic and yet sadly resigned as he blusters about the stage, while Walter Carr, a petulant slightly pompous Estagon (less firmly defined) sits still or shuffles in a permanent wince.

Their mutual dependence is brought all the more sharply into focus by Hugh Sullivan's strong performance as Pozzo who thrusts the antagonistic tramps together. But while this human tangibility brings out the compassion of Beckett's play, what is lost entirely is the relevance of its music hall "business".

Finally Mayfest offered two productions - which received Fringe Firsts in Edinburgh last year and both deservedly so. Kick Theatre Company's *Measure for Measure*, directed by Deborah Warner, moves with controlled intelligence through Shakespeare's mild conservatism. The cast come frock-coated, emphasizing the questionable value of Victorian virtues, and there is a fine performance from Hilary Townley as Isabella. Likewise Doric Theatre Company's *Prevarious Living*, Amy Hardie's moving play about a fisher woman judged insane, is as intelligently acted as it is written, and directed with deceptive simplicity by Neil Scott.

Jazz Loose Tubes

Ronnie Scott's

Even were it to fulfil its proprietor's long standing promise to present a bill featuring Pam Ayres, the Dagenham Girl Pipers and the Red Arrows, Ronnie Scott's Club could never feel less than a jazz club. Probably never, though, has it felt more like a jazz club than on Monday evening, when most of the 21 members of Loose Tubes left the bandstand to parade around the aisles and tables in a hectic and hilarious parody of the New Orleans marching band routine.

A rehearsal band consisting of members of a new generation of British jazz musicians who, like many of their contemporaries in other fields, see no need to cultivate exclusivity as a component of their aesthetic outlook, Loose Tubes have resurrected the free-wheeling optimism that long evaporated from the British scene. Music simply pours out of them - and,

Pouring out the music

in particular, out of their co-leader and keyboardist, the astonishing Django Bates.

Bates is a prominent contributor, with the double bassist Steve Berry and the trumpeter Chris Batchelor, to a repertoire of compositions drawing on such a variety of sources as to be audacious even for these self-consciously eclectic times. Batchelor has a stunning piece whose tone is set by a tarian skirl of trumpet and soprano saxophone, and another pitching Bates's garrulous melodic (a plastic device like a mouth-organ with a tiny keyboard) against greasy 12/8 blues patterns straight from the Louisiana bayou; Bates's "A Tribute to Jazz" ties together echoes of Beiderbecke's Wolverines and the slick routines of California in the fifties, staying just this side of Dada; Berry concentrates on multi-themed epics that ramble with the gentle gait of an old steam train.

Systems-music drones, misty ECM-style ballads, gospel shouts, dislocated funk and

clanking Latin vamps form a dazzling kaleidoscope, opening out to permit the individual contributions of musicians whose names will one day be better known: Eddie Parker (flute), John Paricelli (guitar), Mark Lockhard (saxophones) and Dave DeFries (trumpet) among them.

Django Bates, though, is a show on his own, delighting in modulating his synthesizer from a Jimmy Smith wail through a B-movie screech and an industrial-rock squeal to a ravishingly cool timbre reminiscent of George Zamfir's Balkan pan-pipes. What Bates plays, too, is usually as good as how he plays it, and his sensitivity to orchestral requirements is acute.

Thanks to a Musicians' Union subsidy, Loose Tubes are topping the bill at Scott's until Saturday. Anyone who does not believe that big-band jazz began with Glenn Miller and ended with Buddy Rich should make it their business to get along.

Richard Williams



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(SPECIAL REPORT)

AUSTRIA/1

First freedom, then prosperity

The foreign ministers of Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States meet in Vienna today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the treaty which restored full

sovereignty to Austria after the war. In this Special Report Richard Bassett looks back over the intervening years and assesses the current state of the country

May 15, 1955. A crowd of several hundred gathered outside the baroque Belvedere Palace in Vienna to see a small dark-suited man brandish a leather-bound document. Austria's state treaty which the Austrian foreign minister, Dr Leopold Figl, held up to the cheering crowds below, had been signed that morning by the foreign ministers of the victorious powers.

After 10 years of occupation, Austria was to become independent. Within four months, the Russian, American, British and French troops in the country were to go, leaving behind a militarily neutral state.

Luckily for the Austrians, the Hungarian uprising of 1956 was still to come, and the Soviet Union, smarting from the failure of the Berlin blockade, was keen to gain propaganda points, first by patching up its quarrel with Yugoslavia and also by dropping its intransigent stand on Austrian independence.

The price Austria paid for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from its soil was, if politically small, economically daunting. It undertook to provide the Soviet Union for the next 10 years, with one million tons of oil a year from the lower Austrian oilfields, to deliver over the next six years goods to the value of \$150 million, and to pay "compensation" of \$2 million for the return of Austrian interests in the Danube Shipping Company.

Through the withdrawal of British, French and American troops in western and southern Austria, the Russians also gained the inestimable strategic advantage of splitting NATO into two. German and Italian forces were now divided by a neutral mountain barrier.

However, once these economic obligations had been faithfully and punctually discharged, the Austrian economy began to prosper and Europe

came to regard the country as a reliable business partner and a useful economic link between East and West.

The most impressive achievement of the postwar years was the country's unique social contract. Emerging during the late 1950s and implemented through a series of informal meetings between the chambers of commerce and the unions, this agreement has given Austria industrial relations which are the envy of the western world.

Though both the Hungarian uprising of 1956 and the Prague Spring of 1968 showed that Austria was firmly in the West's political camp and that its

Chancellor playing an active role in some of the most important issues of the day gratified the Austrians' need for some European identity. But Dr Kreisky's involvement in foreign affairs was seen increasingly as being at the expense of his domestic obligations.

As Austria developed an economy heavily burdened by social services, with pensions the envy of the world, only tourism kept the national budget in the black and time and again Austrians began to feel that the government was

crusading overpending on projects which would ultimately leave the country over-burdened with debts.

A sudden outbreak of terrorism in the late 1970s, culminating in various Arab groups using Vienna to pay off old scores with each other, brought the Chancellor's policies into serious question.

In 1979, a referendum to decide whether Austria's £3 million nuclear power station at Zwentendorf on the Danube should be activated resulted in an embarrassing defeat for the Kreisky government.

The Chancellor had earlier announced that he would resign if there was no vote in favour of nuclear power.

In the event the Chancellor did not resign and it was only in 1983, when the Socialist Party failed to gain an overall majority in the general election, that he finally hung up his hat.

However, he did not bow out before his strategy for preserving the power of the Socialist Party had been implemented in the construction of a coalition, which, unlike those in the late 1950s and early 1960s, involved not the main opposition party, the conservative People's Party, but the small right-wing Freedom Party.

At the time, this may have seemed a sound proposition. No one had seen the Freedom Party in power and it was a safe assumption that it would easily

fit into the Socialist majority, which was far more experienced in office. By buying off the Freedom Party with three ministerial posts and the position of Vice-Chancellor for the party leader, Dr Norbert Steger, power could still be concentrated largely in Socialist hands under a new Chancellor, Dr Fred Sinowatz.

Dr Sinowatz, a smooth political operator adept at handling politicians behind the scenes, was the obvious, if unwilling, choice for this operation. His ability would ensure that the more undesirable elements of the Freedom Party, an unhappy amalgam of former Nazis, disillusioned students and liberals, could be kept away from major policy decisions.

What followed shattered this optimistic belief. Though bereft of any real policies of its own, the Freedom Party was able to act as a brake on almost everything the Socialists tried to do.

War and peace. Top: Austrian POWs return home in joy from Russian prison camps in 1955. Above: Demonstrators at a peace camp near Hainburg earlier this year



War and peace. Top: Austrian POWs return home in joy from Russian prison camps in 1955. Above: Demonstrators at a peace camp near Hainburg earlier this year

concentration camps by the Nazis, their party was forced to support the minister in a vote of confidence to preserve the coalition. These disturbing episodes, all of which have occurred in the last five months, highlight the acute dilemma of a government lacking decisiveness.

Fortunately for Austria, its economy is sufficiently wired to that of West Germany to survive such buffeting, but many Austrians are alarmed at the prospect of another three years with a crisis-prone coalition.

Only the inability of the opposition People's Party, led by Dr Alois Mock, to exploit the coalition's predicament preserves the Chancellor. Until that party produces a strong and gifted leader, the government will continue to weather the storms and, in the best traditions of Austrian politics, "muddle through".

To the horror of many die-hard Socialists whose parents had been marched off to

concentration camps by the Nazis, their party was forced to support the minister in a vote of confidence to preserve the coalition. These disturbing episodes, all of which have occurred in the last five months, highlight the acute dilemma of a government lacking decisiveness.

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Violence thwarts power plant plan

It would be difficult to find any area of Austrian politics more charged with emotion than that of energy. Cushioned by their social contract from industrial strife, Austrians have few opportunities to get politically overheated.

Imagine then the surprise and horror which arose from television scenes in January depicting baton-wielding police wrestling with thousands of demonstrators who had occupied a forest on the Danube to thwart government plans to build a hydro-electric power station.

Used to witnessing such scenes in England during the miners' strike, Austrians were rightly alarmed at the violence. Dr Sinowatz's government understandably, if rather irresolutely, postponed the plan for a year - a characteristic compromise which infuriated the environmentalists as it did their opponents.

The affair was a further blow to a coalition government which had inherited more than its fair share of energy dilemmas from the "golden" Kreisky years.

Chief among these is the mothballed nuclear power station at Zwentendorf further up the Danube, built in 1978 but unactivated since a referendum rejected nuclear power for Austria.

Attempts by the government to hold a new referendum on the issue have foundered through the intransigence of the junior partner in the coalition, the Freedom Party, which is committed to opposing nuclear energy.

Hainburg and Zwentendorf are not alone. Plans to build another power station in the Tyrol at Dorfgemeinschaften are also floundering as a result of conservationist demands.

To a certain extent, Dr Sinowatz's government has been unlucky. No one a few years ago could have predicted the enormous popularity environmental issues could command in Austria. Hainburg proved dramatically that young Austrians, long considered politically apathetic, were susceptible to the romanticism of the "green" philosophy which a few years earlier had so deeply affected West German youth.

Carried on the crest of this popular wave is the young Green Party, which made such gains at the provincial Vorarlberg elections that the debating chamber of the provincial

parliament had to be redesigned to accommodate the new force.

The Greens' leader, the bearded and ruddy Herr Kasparner, lives a spartan existence, milking cows during Press conferences and addressing his parliament in the barely comprehensible dialect of his valley. Though a man of little political experience, Herr Sinowatz's lifestyle is an inspiring example for young Austrians disillusioned with the portly, over-privileged image of most Austrian politicians.

Encouraging though this new idealism is, it cannot solve the dilemma of Austria's increasing energy needs. Though the conservationists, who count among their numbers royalty, Nobel prize-winners and several eminent scientists, believe that Austria is self-sufficient in energy, last year's figures reveal a disturbing increase in dependence on east European energy. Compared with 1983, energy imports from Poland were up 46 per cent, those from Hungary were up by 65 per cent, while the Soviet Union had increased its energy export to Austria by 31 per cent.

Simmering fury of the workers

Spokesmen for the energy industry also point out that although surpluses are generally available in the summer, hydro-electric power alone cannot supply the country's needs during the long winter. They see the failure of the government to act with any decision either over nuclear or hydro-electric power as optimistic folly.

If the energy bosses are unhappy at this, the reaction of their workforce, including the powerful trade unions whose members marched in tens of thousands in support of Hainburg last year, is one of simmering fury.

The government's retreat turned the unions into an emasculated force rather than the all-pervasive pillar of Austria's renowned social contract. The unions expect the government to act decisively but on present showing Dr Sinowatz's cabinet is unlikely to have the courage to push through the construction of a power station or activate one already built.

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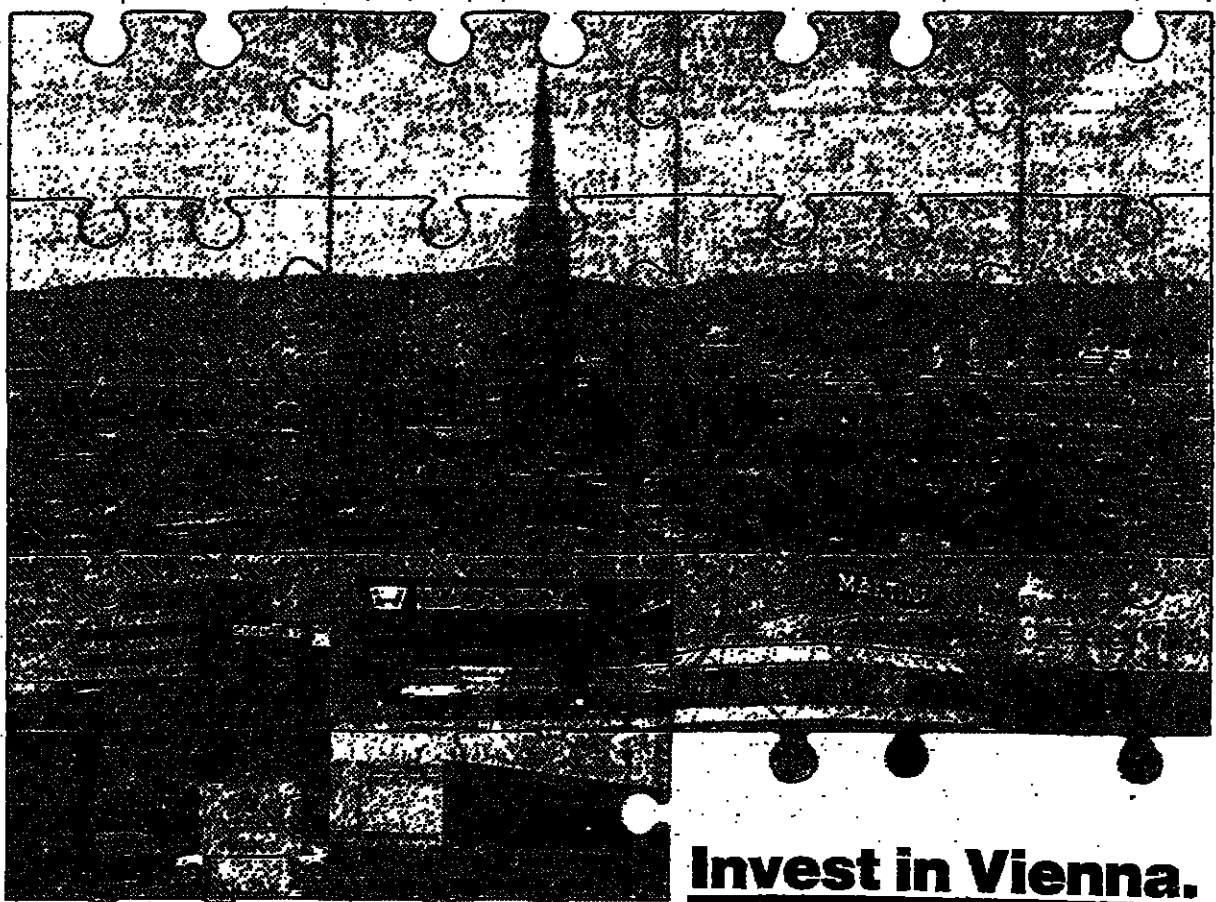
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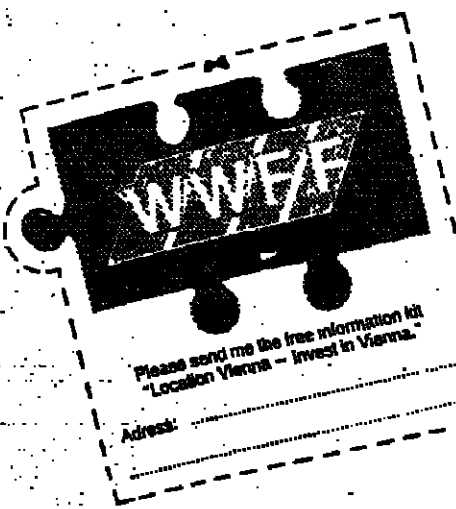
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Why tourism is not always welcome

Few countries depend as much on tourism as Austria. Spending by the 15 million visitors who annually descend on the country, either for skiing or for music festivals, easily covers the annual balance of payments deficit.

Tourism, though in many ways extravagantly developed in Austria, is a fairly recent thing. Before 1914, there were only three books in English to guide tourists through the country, compared with over a hundred on Italy and nearly 50 on Switzerland.

After the First World War, the internal crises of an Austria menaced by its neighbours to the north and south meant that the country could not produce that calm perfection of service which is so much a quality of Swiss tourism. Austria became a familiar landmark on the mass tourist map only after the Second World War.

Until 1955, when the country was divided between the Allies, tourism could be encouraged only in the western and southern zones, which were in Nato hands, and this was done rather tentatively. However, when the armies withdrew, the full potential of the postwar playground was exploited — some would say all too rapidly — within the following five years.

Ski-lifts and chalets were constructed and villages which had had barely a few hundred inhabitants found their population multiplied fourfold and in some cases twentyfold. The tourist boom brought thousands of jobs and a permanent second economy in which farmers and agricultural workers regularly did secondary jobs involved with tourism during the season. But in many cases little attention was paid to the environment. The presence of the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck produced an Olympic village but did considerable damage to the relatively unspoilt environs of the city.

Outside the towns, the thousands of chairlifts, if welcome during the winter months, soon become eyesores during the summer, when most Austrians use the Alps for that most popular of recreations, walking.

The tons of litter left by skiers have had disastrous ecological effects which have been highlighted recently by environmentalists in a series of articles

entitled *Apocalypse in the Alps*. They point to glaciers which have become a muddy grey as a result of the 'ten million' skiers who take to the Tyrolean slopes each year, many of them with little respect for the mountains' appearance.

Tourist officials both within and outside the Tyrol admit that the pace of development after the last war was too fast and that mistakes were made.

As well as the environmental damage of mass tourism, there are also disturbing social effects. Professor Irwin Ringel, Austria's leading expert in this field, has noted a growing incidence of xenophobia in Austria since the 1950s.

Insensitive planning in some resorts

Though noticeable in Vienna, this is happily still absent from St. Anton and Kitzbühel, where there is still something of that old world charm familiar to English skiers for decades. Bad Gastein and Bad Ischl, however, have both been rather neglected by planners and parts of their townscapes have suffered insensitive developments. Their clientele, though rich, has not restored these once renowned resorts to anything like their once fashionable picturesqueness.

Some politicians blame this decline partly on the heavily socialist nature of Austria's government since the war. Before the war, they say, Austria was a fashionable place where every educated European spent at least part of a summer vacation.

An exclusive and well-heeled set motored down past the great baroque abbeys every summer. These have long vanished to join the other great ghosts of

Austria's past. What remains is catered for by a service which, though still capable of attention and personal charm, is increasingly interested in the lower end of the market.

Only in one field does Austria still attract the rich, and that is shooting. In Styria and Lower Austria, visitors pay up to £200 a day to take advantage of the country's unique game laws, which have helped to preserve several rare species of animal almost extinct in other parts of central Europe.

Another traditional area of tourism in Austria is the 'cure', which, though more popular among Austrians than visitors, continues to play an important role in the country's tourist life.

The medical insurance of most Austrians allows them to take advantage of a variety of thermal spas. The health and fitness conscious Germans also flock to these places: the national tourist board estimates that one in every three Austrians and one in every seven Germans visits an Austrian spa for a fortnight every year.

The opening up of Austria's neighbour, Hungary, towards the west has begun to take its toll of this lucrative custom. The issue is a sensitive one in Austrian tourist circles, which have not only to compete with renowned thermal baths but also with the increasing numbers of tourists in the country who pass through Vienna rather than enjoy a longer stay there.

Though Austria and Hungary abolished mutual visa requirements in 1978/79, far more Austrians visit Hungary than vice-versa. And as long as Budapest continues to offer superlative cuisine at half the price of Vienna, the fall in the number of tourist nights in the Austrian capital will continue.

R B

FOREIGN VISITORS TO AUSTRIA IN 1984

Country of Origin	Arrivals	Difference 1984/83
West Germany	8,274,471	-200,581 -2.4
Holland	1,251,737	48,242 4.0
United States	931,505	244,389 26.3
Britain	821,958	66,480 8.8
France	638,070	17,254 2.9
Italy	640,344	106,165 16.5
Switzerland	475,978	32,122 7.2
Belgium/Luxembourg	350,720	6,045 1.8
Sweden	259,834	8,973 4.0
Hungary	218,619	42,829 24.4
Total	15,110,233	628,702 4.3

Source: Central Statistical Office, Vienna

The real postwar miracle, they say, took place in Austria, not West Germany. You would expect the hard-working Germans to be successful, but the easy-going, charming Austrians? The truth is that the easy charm is associated only with Vienna.

In the provinces, Austrians workers are every bit as industrious as their German neighbours. Growth over the last three years has outpaced the average in western Europe. The unemployment rate, 4.5 per cent in 1983 and 1984, is one of the lowest in the industrial West, and inflation is running back below four per cent, after tax increases in 1984 pushed it well above West German levels, threatening Austria's traditional hard-currency policy.

Several obstinate problems spoil this picture, however.

● Energy policy is drifting, with environmental groups and parts of the opposition People's Party (ÖVP) blocking nuclear power and a hydro-electric power scheme on the Danube. ● Higher energy imports last year pushed the current-account balance of payments back into the red after two years of surplus.

● Unemployment in depressed areas such as the eastern province of Burgenland and the steel towns of Styria is closer to British levels than the enviable national average.

● Heavy budget deficits are limiting the government's room for economic manoeuvre. Fiscal stimulus is virtually ruled out for the next few years by Dr

Franz Vranitzky, the finance minister.

The secret of Austria's success lies probably in its social partnership system, under which all important economic matters are discussed with representatives of workers and employers. Under the system, the government guarantees full employment, the unions keep wage demands down and employers keep prices down.

Another element in Austria's success is the nationalized sector, relatively the largest in a western state, and which includes all the biggest industrial firms. This gives the government a huge area of industry in which it can intervene directly in carrying out its economic policies.

The price of social partnership is heavy social partnership, offering little scope for cuts. The baroque structure of

Austrian social welfare is in urgent need of reform. In common with several other west European states, there will soon be too many old people drawing pensions for the system to operate on the contributions of those in work.

Social partnership means that all political parties are committed to a full employment policy, and it is difficult for large companies to make workers redundant. This slows down restructuring, as manpower cuts can often occur only through natural wastage.

The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) handed out the now traditional praise in its annual survey of Austria issued in March. But it warned that major and difficult measures were needed to consolidate the budget, and called for faster restructuring.

Precisely because nationalized industries are owned by the government, it has been more

than usually hard to lay off workers in this sector. Restructuring has been slower and more painful, and losses more stubborn, than elsewhere in the Austrian economy.

Firms owned by the state holding company, Österreichische Industrieverwaltungs-AG (OIG), which include Austria's biggest company, the steel and engineering group Voest-Alpine, account for 17 per cent of industrial employment. The figure rises to over a quarter if the industrial holdings of state-owned banks are included. Most of OIG's subsidiaries are now either profitable or breaking even (Voest is the notable exception).

After the government agreed to a 16.6 billion schilling (about £530 million) three-year restructuring package for OIG in 1983.

Voest could yet prove a restructuring success story. It has begun to diversify out of steel smelting into micro-electronics, and last year won a 500 million Deutschmark (about £129 million) order from IBM (the biggest it has ever awarded in Europe) to supply multi-layer circuit boards.

Austria regularly turns in a deficit on trade, but in a good year invisibles such as tourism can produce a current account surplus. 1984 was not one of these good years, despite a 10 per cent surge in exports, as imports rose more than expected, with a build-up of energy stocks.

Trade with eastern Europe,

which accounts for about 12 per cent of the total, is a mixed blessing.

The payments difficulties of Comecon states have meant that it is often the Austrian government, through its export credit agencies, that pays for Comecon trading partner, the Soviet Union. Austria has a trade deficit, so payments are not a problem. Moscow is a major supplier of energy, taking turn-key factories, ships, and other engineering products in exchange.

The difficulties of doing business with the cash-strapped east Europeans have enabled Austria to develop great expertise in counter trade and other forms of barter, which can pay off today in the Third World as well as the Soviet bloc. Transit trade accounts for nearly a third of Austrian imports and a quarter of exports.

Austria's role in East-West trade has often embittered relations with Washington, which fears that Nato restrictions on the export of strategically sensitive high technology to the Soviet bloc can be circumvented in Austria.

Without wanting to upset its valuable trading ties with the Soviet bloc, the Austrian government has now passed a law under which Austrian companies that break the re-export provisions of import or licensing contracts can be fined.

A Special Correspondent



Austria in perspective: An old woman enjoys an ice-cream in Vienna, and Salzburg, one of the great musical cities

A new gloss for the tarnished miracle

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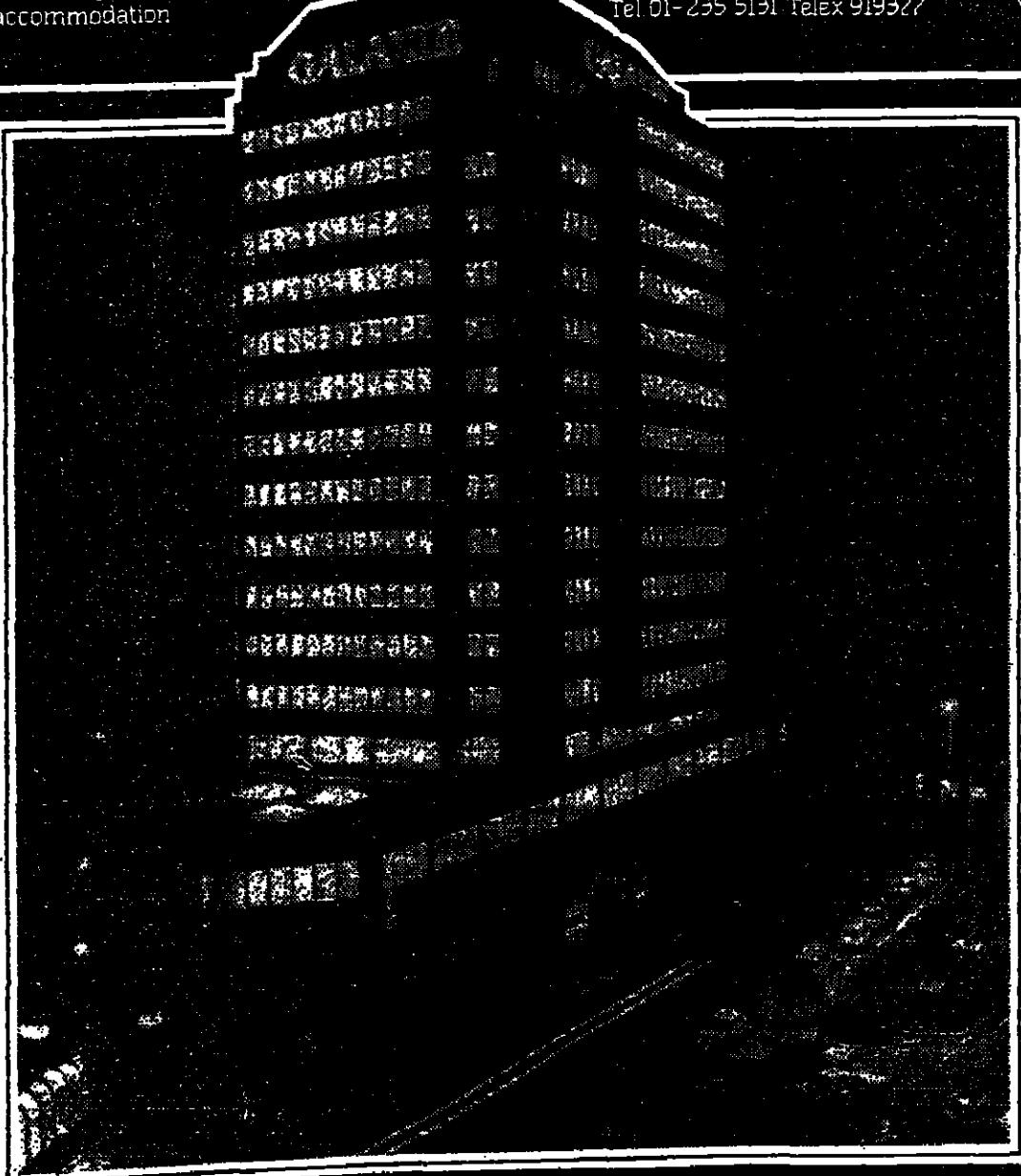
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Trade with eastern Europe,

You can always judge a good building by the companies it keeps.

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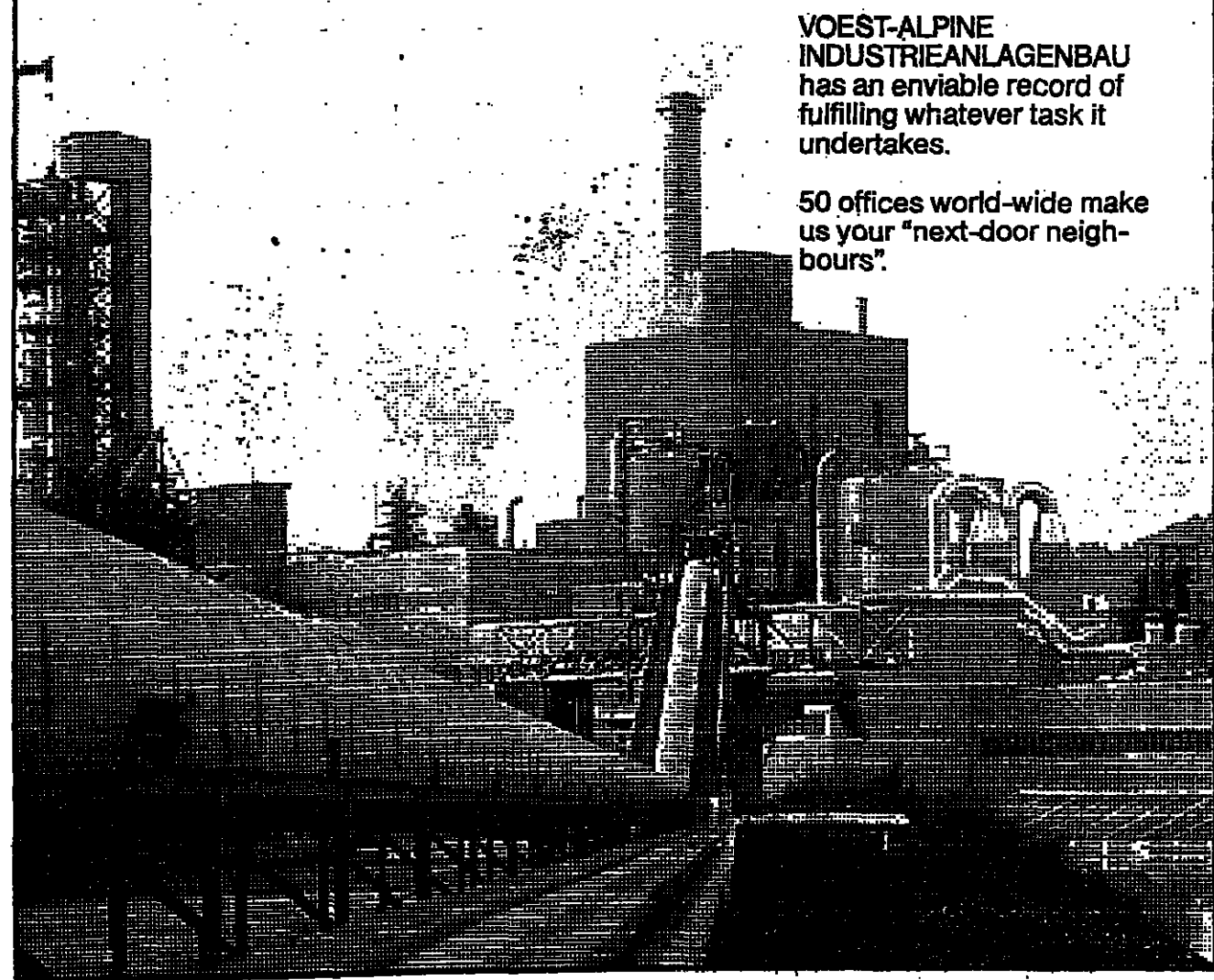


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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Land Securities brings a touch of realism

Mark Twain traded land - he had it on good authority that no one was making any more. But would he have bought Land Securities last week, when punters plunged in ahead of yesterday's 1984/85 results, goaded by talk of a juicy asset revaluation. City rents have boomed this year. Land Securities has nearly a third of its £2 billion-plus property portfolio invested in the Square Mile. Some dealers were hoping for as much as a 12 per cent gain, taking the asset value per share up to 420p.

They were disappointed. The figure which emerged - 401p - was at the bottom end of brokers' estimates. The shares which had been pushed to 310p, fell back immediately to 297p.

Cool analysts claim that, if anything, the "realism" of the new asset value figure is welcome. The property market they believe, has got way ahead of itself in terms of discounted future values. Land Secs figure simply underlines the fact that reduced institutional cash flows into the property market have reduced the chances of automatic upgrades on the weight of money argument. The market has also forgotten that institutions, not property companies, have the best portfolios.

Although Land Securities may have done the property sector as a whole a service by its down-beat valuation, it still has question marks of its own. Profits for the year to March 31 are a convenient starting point. A pretax figure of £96 million, up 14 per cent, is far better than the market expected. A dividend rise of 12 per cent to 8.15p is also heartening.

Shareholders in other words are being rewarded quite handsomely for the 1981 convertible rights issue which raised £105 million, and which helped to finance the current refurbishment programme. Last year, the group redeveloped nearly one million square feet of office space. Profits this year might leap to around £110 million.

These figures, it should be emphasized, are real figures, in so far as Land Securities' conservative accounting does not include capitalizing interest on development programmes. Nevertheless, the bulk of the cash raised through the rights issue, has now been spent. Land Securities is down to the last £25 million.

The market has been awash with rumours for some months that the group stood close to the top of the debenture queue, but pulled out when interest rates shot up to 14 per cent. Last night the chairman, Peter Hunt, agreed that the group was keeping a close eye on the debenture market as a source of fresh capital.

A minus one at Lloyd's

Ian Davison, chief executive of Lloyd's, was in no doubt yesterday that the insurance market would sail through the latest wave of appalling underwriting losses with its central structure undamaged.

"Our tackle is in order and I am confident we will be able to handle it", he said. He pointed out that the Lloyd's central fund, which protects the insured, had risen from £134 million to £167.2 million at the end of 1984, of which £7 million was earmarked for previous years' defaults. Lloyd's assets stood at £145 million and, most important, the deposits it held in trust for underwriting names reached £1.47 billion.

Lloyd's can of course only employ the deposits, which amount to 25 per cent of the business names can write; if names fail to make good their losses by the solvency deadline. Several Richard Beckett syndicate names are threatening to do just that.

Mr Davison is probably right when he says a combination of deposits held at Lloyd's, names' individual stop-loss policies and profits from their other, less stricken syndicates, mean most names can and will meet their obligations, leaving the central fund largely unscathed.

Whether the shock horror headlines of

The board would probably be happy to make a sizeable issue, but only if the terms were right. That really means if interest rates start to fall.

Price Waterhouse tops the beauty parade

While the big corporate finance names in the merchant banks are busy preparing to pitch for the next record-breaking Government share sale, the flotation of British Gas, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, has been pursuing his own characteristically idiosyncratic approach in the run-up to the privatization of another industry, buses. On Monday Mr Ridley quietly announced that he had appointed Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, to advise him on the planned break-up and sale of the National Bus Company.

But Mr Ridley is nothing if not a radical. The decision to appoint Price Waterhouse is bound to be seen as something of a rebuff for the merchant banks, who have found in privatization one of their most valuable sources of corporate finance business over the last four years. Several merchant banks were in the "beauty parade" for the National Bus business, but were rejected. It is noticeable that National Bus themselves have appointed a Barclays Merchant Bank to act for them in preparing for privatization. Mr Ridley however is known to take the view that there is no reason why the banks should have a monopoly of the privatization fees, and has now acted accordingly.

The way that Mr Ridley has decided to go about privatizing National Bus makes this decision more logical than it might at first appear. Almost alone among ministers faced with saleable industries, he is sticking to his belief that competition should come before sale proceeds. He is insisting that National Bus should be broken up into several component businesses rather than sold as an integral unit, as happened with British Telecom and is due to happen also with British Gas. It is not so much therefore a case of preparing and underwriting a mammoth stock market issue as preparing adequate corporate and capital structures for the myriad of local bus companies that Mr Ridley wants to see rising Phoenix-like from the ashes of the present overregulated industry. He has also made it clear that he would like to see employees having the chance to buy their own companies wherever possible.

the past few weeks deter prospective names, at a time when Lloyd's is anxious to expand capacity, remains to be seen. The scandals of misappropriated money had no such effect. This year, Lloyd's capacity, at £8.7 billion, up a record 29 per cent, and the flow of new names shows no sign of abating. A similar increase in capacity is expected next year.

The recent staggering losses have highlighted two main issues. First some names are in the wrong type of investment. Not all are rich and some are facing personal ruin. Any new name should think long and hard about the meaning of unlimited liability.

Second, names have been kept woefully ignorant of what their managing agents have been up to. Rules introduced in the past two years under the Davison regime to improve accounting practices, to improve accountability and to improve the calibre of underwriting agents should go a long way to ridding Lloyd's of this particular blight.

The reforming goes on. Yesterday Mr Davison announced that Lloyd's brokers were to be pulled into the net. Four working parties will produce a consultative document on the regulation of brokers, which should result in new Lloyd's byelaws by next spring.

P&O company plans Olympia expansion ready for 1990s

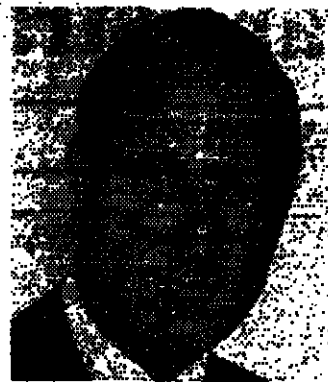
By Judith Hantley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Earls Court and Olympia, the exhibition hall company which is part of Sir Jeffrey Sterling's P&O Group, plans to add 130,000 sq ft of space to its Earls Court centre. The scheme is part of large expansion plans designed to cope with exhibition needs in the 1990s.

Proposals are taking shape to build a new hall on the lines of Crystal Palace at the back of Earls Court site in west London. There would also be a 300 per cent increase in car parking at the centre on a 4.7 acre site at Seagrave Road which the company bought some time ago for £3.4 million.

A planning application will shortly be put to Kensington and Chelsea Council, although the development will not be built until demand from the exhibition business requires more space.

With the new hall and the



Sir Jeffrey Sterling: money will come through P&O

recently refurbished spaces at Olympia, London's exhibition centre can rival the size of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham at just over 1 million sq ft.

Earls Court and Olympia, unlike the other exhibition centres in the country, is privately-owned and funded and, as such, the money for the

planned expansion will have to come through the P&O Group.

Mr Tim Harris, the chairman and managing director of Earls Court and Olympia, said the cost of the new hall would be in line with that estimated for the NEC's new space. The NEC put a figure of £26 million on building the 200,000 sq ft first phase of its planned expansion at the Birmingham exhibition centre which would double its size.

The NEC expansion will be paid for from public funds. A total of £200 million has been put forward as the amount needed to increase space at Birmingham and provide a new hotel, motel and the necessary infrastructure.

Birmingham City Council and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce originally put up finance for the NEC with £50 million coming from the West Midlands County Council.

Earls Court and Olympia has already spent more than £20 million on modernizing its halls since 1979 and with the

exception of a £5 million loan from the Greater London Council, has found the money from its own resources.

The company recognizes the need to capitalize on the advantages that its situation in west London, can offer visitors. The expansion plans, allied with improved access and parking will help it meet the competition which is coming from other exhibition halls and ideas still in the pipeline.

A new exhibition and conference complex in London's Docklands has been mooted as a way of regenerating part of the idle docks. However, large-scale investment in infrastructure will be needed to bring visitors into the area.

The building of the rapid transit railway in docklands would help but there is still the need to complete road access to the area.

A large exhibition complex, is also planned for redundant dockland in Glasgow, so competition is increasing.

Aran acts to snatch Petrolex

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Aran Energy, the Dublin independent oil company, has snatched control of the British independent, Petrolex, from under the nose of Saxon Oil which itself had topped a bid from Clyde Petroleum.

Saxon's previously agreed bid closed yesterday, the company has until 9.30 this morning to decide if it will increase its offer. That is unlikely as Aran is claiming to have assurances for more than 50 per cent of Petrolex and the price Aran is offering is described as "too high" by several oil industry analysts.

Aran's bid values Petrolex at £15.8 million. Saxon had offered £13.4 million compared with the original bid from Clyde Petroleum of £11.7 million.

Under the takeover arrangements the Petrolex management, headed by Mr Jim Lindars and including Lord Ezra, the former National Coal Board chairman, will remain in London, while Aran's managing director, Mr Michael Whelan, will run the expanded company from Dublin.

The takeover gives Aran the tax advantage of a share in the production of the BP Forties field, acquired by Petrolex, to offset against North Sea exploration costs.

Petrolex shares rose yesterday by 5p to 89p compared with the Aran offer of 98.7p. Aran's shares dropped 4p to 39p on news that Aran is to raise £11.2 million to finance the takeover.

Fed troubleshooters move in to halt new run on savings

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States Federal Reserve Board sent 350 banking examiners into the state of Maryland yesterday to prevent a run on deposits at two large savings associations from spreading to 100 other privately insured institutions.

Federal authorities are anxious to prevent a crisis similar to that of March which forced the closure of 71 state-insured associations in Ohio.

Bank examiners are conducting audits of the state-insured savings and loans with the aim of helping them to qualify for federal insurance and loans from the central banking system.

In addition, federal authorities hope to calm public fears

over the soundness of the state insurance system to prevent deposit runs in Massachusetts, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, which have private deposit insurance.

The Maryland deposit run began slowly last Thursday with news of problems at Old Court Savings and Loan Association. By Friday, long queues had begun to form and telephones were deluged with calls from anxious depositors. The run continued on Saturday, with angry depositors waiting for up to four hours for their money.

Officials estimated that as much as \$50 million was withdrawn from the \$670 million institution.

Over the weekend after

failing to find a buyer for Old Court Mr Stephen Sachs, the state attorney-general, placed it under state conservatorship. This allows the state to protect the association's assets and to limit withdrawals.

At the same time, problems developed at another large institution, Mercantile Savings and Loan Association of Baltimore, which voluntarily placed itself under state conservatorship late on Monday when a deposit run developed.

The implications of the deposit run became clear late on Monday when Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, moved to calm public fears by pledging the board's full support.

Boardroom war over Phoenix

By Patricia Wheatcroft

Phoenix Timber is under siege from a group of businessmen who have joined with a Phoenix director to try to take control despite having fewer than a third of the shares. Mr Dennis Cook, the Phoenix chairman, is determined to fight the move and is considering legal action.

The consortium is requesting an extraordinary general meeting of the company at which it intends to vote its representatives into a majority on the board.

Phoenix, with a market value of around £4 million, has only

four directors. Mr Michael Hermann, who speaks for the largest shareholding, is the one who has joined with the consortium.

Phoenix has suffered from the continuing problems of the timber industry and its figures for the half year to September showed a fall of £100,000 to pretax profits of £427,000.

But the company's timber preservation business is successful and it has some valuable land. Net assets are £2.2 million against a market price of 142p.

In March last year the company's founder, Mr Alexander Gourvitch, died and Mr Hermann apparently took over as trustee for the stake of around 24 per cent which is held for two of Mr Gourvitch's relations. Since then a group of northern businessmen using the name Equity & Share have built up a stake of more than 10 per cent and in March they announced that they were acting in concert with three London businessmen, Mr Geoffrey Hoffmann, Mr David Edelmann and Mr Michael Teacher, a partner in the financial consultants, Pointon

York.

IN BRIEF

Pound rises 1.9 cents

A rise in US retail sales failed to boost the dollar yesterday. The pound benefited from continued dollar weakness, rising by 1.9 cents to \$1.2727. Later in New York, the pound was trading at \$1.2705.

The Commerce Department reported that retail sales rose by 0.9 per cent last month to a seasonally adjusted \$112.23 billion. The fall in March, previously estimated at 1.9 per cent, was revised to a drop of 0.7 per cent.

Despite the encouraging figures, which could be an indicator of a stronger second-quarter performance for the American economy, the dollar remained unsettled by the banking problems in Maryland and the prospect of an early cut in the Federal Reserve's discount rate.

Against the mark, the dollar closed in London at DM3.0485, down 2.5 pence on the day

Sears up £16m

Sears Holdings, the Selfridges to Debenhams group, has increased pretax profits for the year to January 31 to £175.2 million, up from £159.1 million. Turnover rose to £2,019 million from £1,839 million. A final dividend of 2.2p makes 3p for the year, against 2.5p last time. *Tempos, 23*

Losses at GA

General Accident reported an increase in first-quarter pretax losses to £18 million from £16.5 million over the same period last year. Its shares rose 3p to 61p. High weather losses and a rise in the number of motor claims hit the company's performance. *Tempos, page 23*

Muirhead move

The board of the electricals company Muirhead is recommending shareholders to accept the takeover offer from the RHP Group. The shares fell from 196p to 160p, just short of the cash alternative to the offer, on the change of mind. *Tempos, page 23*

Bid recount

Peck Holdings had secured 48.99 per cent of Energy Services & Electronics by the closing date yesterday and a recount was requested. If no change emerges the bid will lapse. ESE's shares price dropped 3p to 91p on the close. Peck, a Shell company controlled by the South African financiers, Mr Julian Askin and Mr Hugo Biermann, was unchanged at 27p.

Offer extended

The offer by Trafalgar House for Haden has been extended to May 28. Acceptances have been for 19,045 ordinary shares, giving Trafalgar 5.12 per cent of Haden's issued share capital.

Markheath loss of £1.65m on office complex

By Our Commercial Property Correspondent

Markheath Securities, the property trading company, is asking its shareholders to come up with £7.3 million by way of a one for one rights issue at 50p per share. The object is to allow the company to establish an investment portfolio of three properties valued at £11.67 million.

The company also announced that its office development in Stratford, east London, has lost it £1.65 million, with a pretax loss of £2.39 million for the year ended December 1984. The company admits that the Stratford development, still unlet, which has been sold to Norwich Union at a 6.5 per cent yield and leased back to Markheath at £7.50 a sq ft, was a mistake.

Mr Paul Bobroff, Markheath's chairman and managing director and chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, says that the company misjudged the situation in Stratford in 1981 but that it has never lost money on any of its other schemes.

The company is forecasting profits of £1.4 million at March 31 next year with rental income contributing £300,000 and development profit at £1.1 million. Markheath hopes to reduce its gearing ratio to 27 per cent following the rights issue.

Firms face tougher tax regime

By Ian Griffiths

The Inland Revenue has launched a new corporation tax form for companies to pave the way for a much harsher tax compliance regime, which is expected in next year's Budget.

The new form, the corporation tax working sheet, will be issued in the autumn in expectation of legislation based on the findings of the Keith Committee report on Revenue enforcement powers.

The content of the legislation is under discussion, but it is expected to improve efficiency and clamp down on companies which are slack in their dealings with the Revenue.

The working sheet will not have statutory backing, but its contents are expected to be incorporated into an official form which will encompass the new legislation.

The present official form, the CT 1, is widely discredited and rarely used by companies and the need for a replacement is recognised by the Revenue.

The new form has been devised by the Revenue in consultation with the accountancy profession and the CBI.

Restaurateurs seek £9m

Kennedy Brookes, best known for its Wheelers and Mario and Franco restaurant chains, is raising £9.65 million from its shareholders to expand its hotel business. Cliff Feltham writes.

The company has four country hotels with a total of

120 bedrooms. "This is far too little and we want to expand", the chairman, Mr Michael Golder, said.

The rights issue involves the issue of £7,826 worth of 64 per cent loan stock for every 20 ordinary shares.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1012.3 (-4.6)
FT All Share	637.44 (-2.40)
FT Govt Sec	80.61 (unchanged)
FT SE 100	1326.5 (-5.5)
Bargains	29.36
Dataseam USM	112.15 (+0.49)
New York	
Dow Jones	1280.36 (+2.87)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,504.20 (-37.33)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1815.00 (-13.29)
Amsterdam	207.9 (-1.2)
Sydney: AO	898.3 (+5.6)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1263.8 (+12.4)
Brussels	
General	228.27 (+4.30)
Paris: CAC	220.7 (+0.5)
Zurich	
SKA General	353.90 (-0.40)

GOLD

London fixing	an \$324.75 - pm \$326.50
close \$326.75 - \$327.25 - \$327.50	
New York	Comex (latest) \$326.90

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Harold Ingram	130 +30
Lyle Shipping	14 +2
Brown & Jackson	15 +2
Ryan Int	19 +2 1/2
Pict Petroleum	160 +17
Cooper Inds	194 +17
Sumrie Clothes	50 +4
M&G Group Hlds	625 +50
Metals Sciences	13 +1
WW Group	175 +10
Peters Stores	70 +4
Fogarty	30 +5
A. F. Bulgin	37 +2
Star Computer	58 +3

FALLS:

CIFER	10 -3
Muirhead	180 -36
Markheath	58 -13
Interfactor Vtd	9 -1
Humblyside Elec	10 -1
Alphametric	126 -12
Minet Hlds	218 -16
Sangers	70 -5
Debenhams	307 -21
Smith St Aubyn	58 -4

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.2727 (+0.0190)	
DM: 3.8774 (+0.0240)	
Sfr: 3.2640 (+0.0237)	
FF: 119.368 (+0.0765)	
Yen: 317.88 (+2.58)	
Index: 79.2 (+0.5)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.2705	
DM: 3.8540	
\$ Index: 144.9 (-1.0)	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 12% - 12 1/2%	
3-month interbank: 12% - 12 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills	
buying rate: 12% - 12 1/2%	
US:	
Prime Rate: 10.5%	
Federal Funds: 7 1/2%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.92 - 7.98%	
Long bond: 10 1/2% - 10 3/4%	

Land Securities

Abridged summary of Results for the Year ended 31st March, 1985

	31.3.85	31.3.84	Increase
	£m	£m	%
Total income	148.4	137.7	7.8
made up of			
Rental income	132.1	116.1	
Service charges and other recoveries	12.2	12.6	
Income from short term deposits	4.1	9.0	
Net rents and interest receivable	114.9	103.7	10.8
Income on ordinary activities before taxation	95.6	84.0	13.8
Taxation	36.6	33.3	
Income available for distribution	59.0	50.7	16.4
Dividends per share paid (2.6p) and proposed (5.55p); 1984: 7.267p	41.0	36.0	
Earnings per share	11.72p	10.23p	14.6
Dividend cover - times	1.44	1.41	

The Knight Frank & Rutley valuation of the portfolio as at 31st March, 1985, in which each property was valued individually and in its present state, totalled £2,335.7m, an increase of £147.3m over the valuation at the previous year end. Taking into account expenditure on properties, £68.4m, and the aggregate book value of properties sold, £24.9m, during the period, the surplus on revaluation was £102.8m, an increase of 4.6% (1984: 6.6%).

Having included the valuation in the Accounts at 31st March, 1985 and without adjusting for any taxation payable in the event of properties being sold, the Consolidated net assets of the Group at that date amounted to £2,016.5m, on which basis the net asset value per share is 401p.

In last year's Directors' Report reference was made to the fact that over 1 million sq. ft. of air-conditioned office space in the City, West End and Victoria was in the process of being redeveloped or refurbished. By the end of March 1985, 912,000 sq. ft. of this space had been completed or virtually completed, of which 852,000 sq. ft. had been let or the terms for letting agreed and 60,000 sq. ft. completed and not let. The balance, 156,000 sq. ft., is not due for completion until later this year or next year.

At 31st March, 1985 Group short term funds amounted to £25.1m and agreed realisations of property, for which contracts had not yet been exchanged, aggregated £9.4m. At that date capital commitments, including expenditure phased over periods of up to two years to complete developments, totalled £46.1m. The bank facilities available to the Group have been increased to £50m.

The full Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year containing an unqualified Report by the Auditors, a detailed property portfolio review and a list of the Group's major property holdings are due to be distributed to Shareholders on 30th May, 1985. Non-shareholders who would like a copy are requested to write to The Secretary:-

LAND SECURITIES PLC Devonshire House, Piccadilly, London W1X 6BT

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Indexes fall from the heights as profit-takers move in

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

For 90 minutes yesterday shares were hovering at yet another new peak. But the effort proved too much — the market started suffering from vertigo, one dealer said.

Sellers moved in and prices skidded lower in active trading. The FT-SE share index, measuring 100 blue chips, came back from a best ever 1,335.7 points to show a 10 points fall at one time. It closed down 6.5 points at 1,326.5 points.

The more popular, but much more narrowly based FT 30 share index, ended 4.6 points down at 1,012.3 points.

British Aerospace was again a large influence. The success of the Government's share sale fuelled the markets' progress on Friday and Monday. Yesterday, dealings started in the new party paid shares. They opened at 242p and in often hectic two day business — there were suggestions of Japanese buying interest — closed at 245p. Issue price was 200p.

Grattan shares gained 2p to 208p as the company's management pay visits in the City. One broker, Wood, Mackenzie, has upped its profits forecast by £500,000 to £14 million after a recent meeting, and raises the stock a "strong buy". The direct mail business is growing by about 45 per cent, and excellent half-time results are expected.

The former BAe shares were also active, finishing 18p lower at 418p.

Debenhams, the stores group which has recorded heavy progress on takeover speculation since it disclosed its figures last week, fell back sharply as it appeared to some, the bid action had started without an offer being made.

The Debenhams price tumbled when the Burton Group, regarded as one of the most likely bidders ruled out an immediate offer, suggesting the Debenhams shares were too high.

Then Mr Robert Thornton, the Debenhams chairman, responded. He said: "With regard to the Debenhams share price the board is confident that the record results announced last week and the prospects of the group more than fully justified the present market capitalization."

Mr Ralph Halpern, Burton's chairman, had admitted that he had "mismanaged" Debenhams, as they have a number of other businesses.

He said that under "present circumstances" he would not be a bidder "at the sort of prices attributed to Mr Thornton." He

added: "Indeed Burton is not convinced that Debenhams is worth its present market valuation of about £450 million."

Mr Thornton has spoken in terms of Debenhams being worth about £600 million.

The store groups shares were at one time down 24p at 304p on the public debate about their

value. They closed at 307p. This year the shares have climbed from 188p.

Johnson Matthey, the troubled precious metal group, shaded a few coppers from its 1985 high of 90p. There were market rumours that the acquisitive Hanson Trust had built up a near 5 per cent shareholding. Hanson would not comment: "We never do on market rumours," said Mr Martin Taylor, a director.

Hanson is, however, thought to be interested in Charter Consolidated, effectively the parent. There has been market speculation for some time that it is accumulating a shareholding. The Hanson price fell 1p to 227p.

On the foods pitches Avana Group moved 13p higher to 634p as market men look forward to next month's full-year figures. Analysts expect a modest increase in profits, the pretax figure reaching between £19 million and £20 million, against a 1983/4 total of £16.7 million. But there is greater optimism for present year progress, with the City looking to the benefits of investments in recent years.

Eowntree Mackintosh stays active, still on the back of bid rumours which are now a year old. Yesterday, shares in the confectionery and foods group jumped 10p to 436p, having touched 441p at one stage. Imperial Group is now sus-

pected as a bidder for Rowntree, and the former's shares were heavily traded, though they showed a 4p gain to 194p by the end of the day.

Imperial is thought to be close to that much-hoped-for disposal of Howard Johnson, its North American restaurant chain. Money released from Ho-Jo

will, undoubtedly, be quickly reinvested, though there are plenty of candidates — apart from Rowntree — for a takeover by Imperial.

Results from Land Securities gave the property sector a knock. Net asset value at the largest public property company has been put at 401p a share, for the year to March, several pence below market expectations and leaving analysts with worries that a certain amount of downgrading of assets has taken place.

The Securities' share price slid 12p lower to 298p, despite the 13.8 per cent rise in profits to £95.6 million, and pennies were lost from share prices across the lists. British Land slipped 3p to 148p, Haslemere eased 3p to 494p, MRPC fell 7p to 30p and Strong Estates drifted 3p lower to 134p.

News of losses and a rights issue at Markheath Securities, smaller property business, did not help sentiment. Although the City had long expected bad news on the profits side, in the event the statement was enough to knock the Markheath share price 13p lower to 58p.

Kennedy Brook, the Mario and Franco restaurant group, shaded 5p to 278p on its £10 million 6 1/2 per cent convertible loan stock rights issue. The cash will be used to increase KB's hotel presence.

Bregmore, on its contract to manage the toilets at King's

dipped 5p to 295p and the City now waits to see if another takeover attempt will emerge.

Elsewhere on the oils pitches prices continue to trade quietly against a background of a weak world spot price, though British Petroleum managed an 8p gain to 551p and Britoil was 3p better at 221p.

Laasne improved 2p to 300p as its recent rights issue began to be forgotten. Shareholders took up more than 93 per cent of the rights, and the other available shares were sold in the market.

The Shell share price weakened again, and Tricentrol also dipped 1p to 240p, despite its bid hopes.

Among second-line oil shares there were spots of excitement. Pict Petroleum, the USM-listed company, jumped 12p to 160p on market stories of an imminent, and possibly good, drilling report.

At Cluff Oil the company announced a simplification of its capital structure, involving the setting up of a holding company, "Shuckley", which received one new share for every existing ordinary share and "B" share in Cluff. Yesterday, the Cluff price was unchanged at 53p.

Price changes were few and far between, although Land Securities showed some response to yesterday's disappointing results. The July and October 280 calls slipped 12p and 10p respectively, while the July, October and January 330 puts rose by 12p, 11p and 10p.

In the meantime, business volume continues to improve over recent levels, with total trading reaching 9,484 yesterday. BT contracts dominate, still

with 2,305 options traded, and the SET market index, contract is also much in favour — 1,141 contracts traded.

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Sears set to stop pussyfooting

In the mighty jungle of the high street the sleeping lion which is Sears prepares to stir. The roar of triumph might still be some way off but after yesterday's impressive figures the company is ready to growl at a City which has ignored its virtues and left the share price virtually static for the last 12 months.

Sears gave warning of emergence from its slumber when with almost nonchalant ease it stretched out a generous paw to snatch the Foster Brothers menswear chain away from the predator's jaws of Ward White for £115 million, last month. Yesterday the company unveiled pretax profits of £175.2 million, up from £159.1 million, which defied earlier suspicions that it would struggle to better the excellent performance in the previous year.

The only real blemish on the results was the well anticipated but still very disappointing performance from the US footwear operations. Profits dipped from £12.7 million to £7.1 million as the vicious discounting in the wake of overstocking took its toll. It is an industry-wide problem but that is scant consolation and the depression could well continue throughout this year.

The problems have not deterred Sears from its drive into international retailing, and if anything the company's will to expand both North America and Europe is firmer than ever before. The company has high hopes for its Olympus sports shops in Atlanta and Amsterdam, which are seen as centres to provide the base for future growth.

Footwear aside, the three

main stores divisions all improved profits with Selfridges and the Lewis chain taking pride of place.

Profits from these department stores increased from £18.7 million to £26.1 million and while Selfridges clearly benefited from the London tourist boom the work which is being done at Lewis should not be ignored. Substantial changes in marketing and merchandise have been introduced to excellent effect as the chain has moved more up-market without alienating the traditional customer base.

With the Foster chain adding another dimension to the group's activities the prospects for the current year are encouraging. Under Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith's capable leadership, Sears could make around £200 million this year and the shares, down 1p to 93 1/2p, are due a rerating.

Muirhead

Sir Raymond Brown built himself a formidable reputation in the defence industry but in the face of the RHP Group's £15 million bid for Muirhead, where he is chairman, Sir Raymond's defences have crumbled very rapidly.

A fortnight ago he was branding the bid "opportunistic" and "wholly inadequate" — now he is recommending it to his shareholders. What has changed?

Not a lot. RHP's bid was indeed opportunistic. In February Muirhead produced some dismal figures and followed them up with gloomy talk that the first half of the present year would be no

better. RHP knew that its target was vulnerable.

Muirhead could have given in gracefully — the bid should not have come as a shock for the American company Tyco had been signalling similar acquisitive intentions until a change of leadership led to the company selling its Muirhead stake last year. But when RHP produced its offer, Muirhead spluttered out a gut reaction and did its shareholders no good in the process.

Sir Raymond is now being forced to admit that overseas defence contracts are not coming through and that prospects for the present year are causing "increasing concern". His instinct was to fight off the bid but his armoury was pitifully short of ammunition.

His advisers, J Henry Schroder Wagg, have a man on the Muirhead board but do not seem to have suggested to Sir Raymond that negotiation rather than a dive for the bunker might have been a preferable response.

Now Muirhead's problems will be RHP's and the company is confident it can cope. "We thought that things were pretty grim there," says RHP's chairman Mr David Ewart. He is expecting last year's profits of £1.55 million to be lower this year, but is convinced that the Muirhead Vatrix components business is such a neat fit with his existing electronics activities that synergy will soon produce results.

About the facsimile business, on which Muirhead built its original reputation, he is less certain. He believes that success in today's facsimile market depends on having enormously strong backing.

General Accident

General Accident, in a characteristically cautious statement, announced a moderate deterioration in first quarter pretax losses of £1.5 million, from £16.5 million to £18 million. Its general underwriting loss increased slightly from £30.3 million to £34.6 million with new premiums up £27 million to £438.4 million.

Compared with the huge deterioration in Royal's figures announced last week, this is not a bad result.

In the US where the trends are strongest, commercial business premium rates are rising faster than the personal accounts business in which GA is most heavily involved. GA's first quarter result which shows an improvement in commercial and deterioration in personal business is already beginning to reflect this.

In Britain, last year's upsurge in motor claims frequency continued pushing up losses sharply on GA's large motor account from £1.9 million to £7.7 million.

Although its property business is not as large as some composites GA is the first to suggest openly that bad weather is no longer a reason to plead in mitigation of bad results. It has become too regular for that.

THE RESULTS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH 1985, ESTIMATED AND SUBJECT TO AUDIT, ARE COMPARED BELOW WITH THOSE FOR THE SIMILAR PERIOD IN 1984, WHICH ARE RESTATE AT 31st DECEMBER 1984 RATES OF EXCHANGE; ALSO SHOWN ARE ACTUAL RESULTS FOR THE FULL YEAR 1984.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not usually provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

3 Months to 31.3.85
Estimate

3 Months to 31.3.84
Estimate

Actual Year 1984

£ millions £ millions £ millions

Net written premiums - General Business 438.4 411.8 1,689.0

Investment Income 64.9 62.8 266.2

Underwriting Result - General Business (84.6) (80.3) (268.3)

Long Term Insurance Profits 2.2 1.4 7.7

Loan Interest (17.5) (16.1) 5.6

Profit (Loss) before Tax and Minority Interests 0.5 0.4 1.7

Taxation (18.0) (16.5) 3.9

Minority Interests and Preference Dividend (9.4) (7.8) (8.1)

Net Profit (Loss) attributable to Shareholders 0.7 0.3 2.2

Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results

U.S.A. \$1.24 \$1.16 \$1.16

Canada \$1.69 \$1.53 \$1.53

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 6.4% and 3.3% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 11.5% and 7.9% respectively.

The first quarter result has again been seriously affected by severe weather losses principally in the United Kingdom but also in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In the United Kingdom, net written premiums were £132.6m (1984, £125.5m) and there was an underwriting loss of £30.9m (1984, £31.1m). This marginal improvement was achieved despite a substantial deterioration in the Motor account result. The upsurge in claim frequency in the second half of last year continued into the first quarter producing a loss of £7.7m (1984, £1.9m loss). The impact of bad weather was taken mainly in the Homeowners and Commercial Property accounts giving rise to losses of £10.3m (1984, £12.6m loss) and £10.4m (1984, £12.8m loss) respectively. These accounts received some benefit from rate increases but the Commercial Property account suffered from an unusually high number of large fire claims. Experience in the Liability classes showed a substantial improvement but remains adverse.

In the United States, net written premiums were \$240.3m (1984, £213.6m) and the operating ratio was 119.75% as compared with 119.53% for the same period last year. On the United Kingdom accounting basis, the underwriting loss was £37.5m (1984, £35.8m loss). Some further deterioration in personal lines experience was largely offset by an improved result from the commercial accounts which are beginning to benefit from rate increases.

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £16.2m (1984, £13.4m loss). There was some improvement in experience in the E.E.C. territories but the incidence of weather claims led to sharply increased underwriting losses in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Single premium for Life business in the United Kingdom, following the successful launch of our unit-linked products, were sharply up at £31.0m (1984 £14.4m). New Annual premiums were lower at £5.9m (1984 £9.0m), the 1984 figure having been affected by the pre-Budget increase in business.

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc

World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank 12 1/2%

Admiral & Co 12 1/2%

Barclays 12 1/2%

BCCI 12 1/2%

Chubb Bank 12 1/2%

Consolidated City 12 1/2%

Continental Trust 12 1/2%

Co-operative Bank 12 1/2%

C. Hoare & Co 12 1/2%

Lloyds Bank 12 1/2%

Midland Bank 12 1/2%

Net Westminster 12 1/2%

TSB 12 1/2%

Williams & Glyn's 12 1/2%

Clubs Bank NA 12 1/2%

1 Mortgage Rate Rate

Crack the code to find out the secret of our success over the last 18 years. Or send for the 1984 Report and Accounts where the answers are perfectly plain.

BTR PLC, SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL. 01-834 3848.

018 51911 THOMSON RESEARCH

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares fall back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 13. Dealings End, May 31. Contango Day, June 3. Settlement Day, June 10. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000

Claims required for +32 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
INDUSTRIALS L-R			
1	Lep	120	118
2	Robertson Res	115	113
3	Moss (Robert)	110	108
4	Marling	105	103
5	Ricardo Eng	100	98
6	Office Elect Mach	95	93
7	Marshall Univ	90	88
8	Reckitt & Colman	85	83
9	Reckitt	80	78
10	Reckitt (Thomas)	75	73
INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
11	Spencer (GVI)	70	68
12	Third Mile	65	63
13	TNT	60	58
14	Smiths Ind	55	53
15	Wadsworth	50	48
16	Wills (G) & Sons	45	43
17	Truveland House	40	38
18	Wentz	35	33
19	Vintea	30	28
20	Valor	25	23
DRAPERY & STORES			
21	Peters Stores	20	18
22	MFI	15	13
23	Grattan	10	8
24	Beckwith	5	3
25	Vastana Vytas	4	2
26	Dinos	3	1
27	Sumrie Clothes	2	1
28	Church	1	0
29	Greenfield Blacks	0	0
30	Fortunier	0	0
BUILDINGS AND RDS			
31	Costan	10	8
32	Monk (A)	5	3
33	Alston Ind	4	2
34	Woods (George)	3	1
35	Hagg & Hill	2	1
36	Lowell (YJ)	1	0
37	Carr (J) Doncaster	0	0
38	Nottingham Brick	0	0
39	Amtec	0	0
40	Lang (J)	0	0

© Times Newspapers Limited. Your Daily Total

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company
120	118	Leip	120	118	Leip
115	113	Robertson Rice	115	113	Robertson Rice
110	108	Moss (Robert)	110	108	Moss (Robert)
105	103	Marling	105	103	Marling
100	98	Ricardo Eng	100	98	Ricardo Eng
95	93	Office Elect Mach	95	93	Office Elect Mach
90	88	Marshall Univ	90	88	Marshall Univ
85	83	Reckitt & Colman	85	83	Reckitt & Colman
80	78	Reckitt	80	78	Reckitt
75	73	Reckitt (Thomas)	75	73	Reckitt (Thomas)
70	68	Spencer (GVI)	70	68	Spencer (GVI)
65	63	TNT	65	63	TNT
60	58	Smiths Ind	60	58	Smiths Ind
55	53	Wadsworth	55	53	Wadsworth
50	48	Wills (G) & Son	50	48	Wills (G) & Son
45	43	Truveland House	45	43	Truveland House
40	38	Went	40	38	Went
35	33	Vintea	35	33	Vintea
30	28	Valor	30	28	Valor
25	23	DRAPERY & STORES	25	23	DRAPERY & STORES
20	18	Peters Store	20	18	Peters Store
15	13	MFI	15	13	MFI
10	8	Grattan	10	8	Grattan
5	3	Beckwith	5	3	Beckwith
4	2	Vastana Vytas	4	2	Vastana Vytas
3	1	Dinos	3	1	Dinos
2	1	Sumic Clothes	2	1	Sumic Clothes
1	0	Church	1	0	Church
0	0	Greenfield Blacks	0	0	Greenfield Blacks
0	0	Fortunier	0	0	Fortunier

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35	33	Vintea	35	33	Vintea
30	28	Valor	30	28	Valor
25	23	DRAPERY & STORES	25	23	DRAPERY & STORES
20	18	Peters Store	20	18	Peters Store
15	13	MFI	15	13	MFI
10	8	Grattan	10	8	Grattan
5	3	Beckwith	5	3	Beckwith
4	2	Vastana Vytas	4	2	Vastana Vytas
3	1	Dinos	3	1	Dinos
2	1	Sumic Clothes	2	1	Sumic Clothes
1	0	Church	1	0	Church
0	0	Greenfield Blacks	0	0	Greenfield Blacks
0	0	Fortunier	0	0	Fortunier

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100	98	Ricardo Eng	100	98	Ricardo Eng
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90	88	Marshall Univ	90	88	Marshall Univ
85	83	Reckitt & Colman	85	83	Reckitt & Colman
80	78	Reckitt	80	78	Reckitt
75	73	Reckitt (Thomas)	75	73	Reckitt (Thomas)
70	68	Spencer (GVI)	70	68	Spencer (GVI)
65	63	TNT	65	63	TNT
60	58	Smiths Ind	60	58	Smiths Ind
55	53	Wadsworth	55	53	Wadsworth
50	48	Wills (G) & Son	50	48	Wills (G) & Son
45	43	Truveland House	45	43	Truveland House
40	38	Went	40	38	Went
35	33	Vintea	35	33	Vintea
30	28	Valor	30	28	Valor
25	23	DRAPERY & STORES	25	23	DRAPERY & STORES
20	18	Peters Store	20	18	Peters Store
15	13	MFI	15	13	MFI
10	8	Grattan	10	8	Grattan
5	3	Beckwith	5	3	Beckwith
4	2	Vastana Vytas	4	2	Vastana Vytas
3	1	Dinos	3	1	Dinos
2	1	Sumic Clothes	2	1	Sumic Clothes
1	0	Church	1	0	Church
0	0	Greenfield Blacks	0	0	Greenfield Blacks
0	0	Fortunier	0	0	Fortunier

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company
120	118	Leip	120	118	Leip
115	113	Robertson Rice	115	113	Robertson Rice
110	108	Moss (Robert)	110	108	Moss (Robert)
105	103	Marling	105	103	Marling
100	98	Ricardo Eng	100	98	Ricardo Eng
95	93	Office Elect Mach	95	93	Office Elect Mach
90	88	Marshall Univ	90	88	Marshall Univ
85	83	Reckitt & Colman	85	83	Reckitt & Colman
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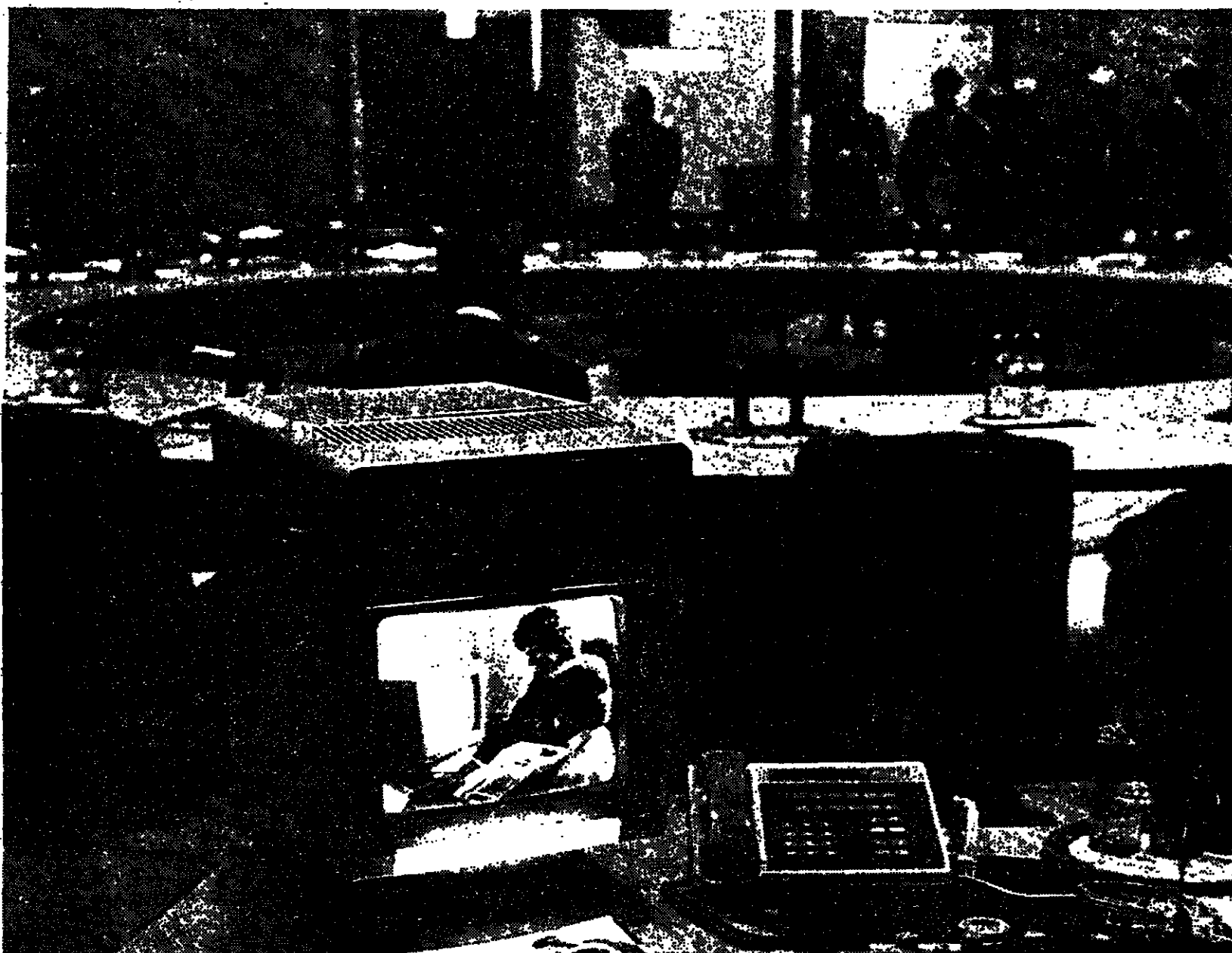
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110	Traco	120	1992	109		12,079	11,558
105	Traco	10	1992	95	+	12,712	11,430
100	Traco C	10	1992	95		11,000	11,461
95	El	10	1992	105		11,862	11,609
104	Each	120	1992	110	-	12,413	11,575
90	Traco	10	1992	109		11,521	11,587
85	Flud	9	1992	78	+	7,690	8,910
103	Traco	13	1293	111	+	12,335	11,574
109	Traco	14	1994	119		12,484	11,502

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For the Economic Summit in Bonn, Siemens installed an integrated communication system specially for the conferees. Everything anyone who's anybody might need:

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We've reached a new summit.**

CRICKET: SOUTH AFRICA'S MOLE SURFACES TO REVEAL TOUR SIDE

Tavaré dazzles as Somerset slip to defeat at home again

By Richard Streeton

TAUNTON: Kent (2 pts) beat Somerset by 102 runs. By the time Chris Tavaré completed a dazzling 143, after Kent had been put in to bat, Somerset were left to make 394 to win this Benson and Hedges cup tie. It meant Somerset reaching a record total in this competition for the team batting second and the task was too much for a side below full strength.

Tavaré, who was given the Gold Award by Tom Craven, made some brilliant strokes, as he compiled his best score in one-day cricket and helped Kent to reach their highest total in this event.

Somerset have now lost all their five matches at Taunton this season. As Kent's batting rose to its crescendo, both teams lost five wickets for 46 runs and Davis's last three were hit for 56. Botham slogged 45 from 30 balls, but nobody else could sustain an assault.

Somerset began badly. Roe buck played on to Dilley in the first over; Wyatt was howled when Cowdrey joined the attack. Ollis was caught at first slip against Baptiste. Botham was sketched at first before he launched into some thunderous drives. Cowdrey was bowled for six in an over which cost 18 runs, but in his next over he had the decisive wicket.

Botham chased a wide ball, aimed a massive hit and snicked a catch to Knott. Underwood bowled Poplewell as the batsmen played across the line. Marks swept Johnson for six but his fellow off-spinner effectively sealed Somerset's fate after a tie. He had Marks and Harden caught near the leg-side

fence and Palmer superbly stumped by Knott. At the start Kent soon lost Hinks, but runs came briskly as Benson rode his luck. Even Tavaré made a false stroke against Botham. Benson was run out when he slipped; Aslett was beaten by Palmer.

Tavaré and Cowdrey then added 99 in 24 overs; Tavaré and Baptiste 114 in 14 overs for the fifth wicket. Cowdrey hit Marks for two sixes before he was held at mid-wicket. Tavaré fell in the last over. This was his second one-day hundred in three days and included 20 fours. It was also his third century this summer. Another England recall must surely not be ruled out.

141 R Benson run out 54
S G Hinks b Davis 148
D G Aslett b W P Palmer 143
D G Cowdrey c Botham b Palmer 41
D G Botham 45
I A P E Knott run out 6
G W Johnson not out 19
Extras (P 5.3, W 3, N 5) 13
Total (48.4 overs) 233

G R Dilley, R P Underwood and K B S Jarvis did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-58, 3-73, 4-172, 5-280, 6-291.

BOWLING: Botham 11-1-50-0, Dilley 11-1-56-2, Marks 11-1-46-0.

P M Roplewell b Dilley 37
J G Wyatt b Underwood 10
R Ollis c Tavaré b Baptiste 42
V J Marks c Tavaré b Johnson 28
R J Harden c Baptiste b Johnson 16
R J Palmer c Knott b Johnson 19
M R Davis c Baptiste b Jarvis 19
I T Garner not out 11
Extras (P 5.3, W 3, N 5) 11
Total (48.4 overs) 394

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-37, 3-46, 4-101, 5-128, 6-136, 7-161, 8-181, 9-191, 10-211, 11-233, 12-291.

BOWLING: Dilley 9-0-18-1, Jarvis 7-4-2-33-2, Baptiste 6-1-29-1, Cowdrey 9-0-21-3, Underwood 11-1-22-1, Johnson 9-0-21-3.

Umpires: D Dudson and G L Evans



Towering Tavaré, the Kent opener, strokes his way to 143 for his highest score in the one-day game

Australian 'rebels' organizing line-up

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

A 14-man team of Australian cricket 'rebels' will tour South Africa after the Ashes series in England is concluded this summer, it was confirmed in Johannesburg yesterday.

Bruce Francis, the South African Cricket Union's 'mole' in Australia, told a news conference that the team will be as strong as, if not stronger, than the official side which is now in England.

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As the news conference in Johannesburg, eight players, none of them involved in the Ashes party, were named as candidates for the South African tour. They are Rod McCurdy, Carl Rackemann, Rodney Hogg, Steve Rixon, Terry Alderman, John McGuire, John Dyson and Steve Smith.

Approached have been made by the Australian Cricket Board Cricket Union to six other players to join the squad. They include Graham Yallop and Tom Hogan.

The South African Cricket Union's spokesman, Dr Al Bacher, declined to disclose the names of the other Australians who have been signed up for contracts to play in South Africa for two seasons, estimated to be worth about £240,000 a man.

Francis said that he majored at university in South African politics. He said: 'I was then disappointed with the pace of the changes in South Africa but I do feel that South African cricket deserves to be rewarded for what it has done. Some players will never be satisfied until you have a black president, but all the initial demands have been met. Change must be rewarded.'

High speed Greenidge

Gordon Greenidge returned to Southampton soil, and slow pitches yesterday after a winter of coping with the high bounce in Australia and West Indies. Outstanding batsman that he is, he barely noticed the difference. His 99 came off only 97 balls and included four sixes and ten fours. Ivo Tennant writes.

With Nicholas making his last Benson and Hedges score, 74, Hampshire reached 294 for nine against Glamorgan. It was not far short of their highest total in this competition, 321 for one against Minor Counties South in 1973. That day the youthful Greenidge made an unbeaten 173. The match resumes today.

At Bristol, Gloucestershire's match with Scotland is evenly poised, Scotland won the toss on a green pitch and restricted Gloucestershire to 184 for eight. Bainbridge and Curran making half-centuries. Scotland at the close were 38 for three, from 13.5 overs.

Border denies report

By Marcus Williams

While rain at Trent Bridge yesterday was washing out the match between Nottinghamshire and the Australians and dreading a second successive blank day for the touring team, Allan Border, their captain, stepped in sharply to deny a South African newspaper report that he was being paid \$500,000 (about £280,000) to lead an unofficial Australian side in the Republic this winter.

Border described the report in *The Citizen*, Johannesburg, as 'Absolute rubbish; it has no basis whatsoever.' He suggested that this rumour, and those that other members of the present touring party might be going to South Africa, were an attempt by the South Africans to discredit the current tour of England. Border maintained, however, that such stories had the converse effect of pulling his players together and strengthening team spirit.

Three of the 17 players originally selected for this tour - Alderman, McCurdy and Rixon - withdrew

YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCOREBOARDS

Hants v Glamorgan	Gloucs v Scotland	Surrey v Essex
AT SOUTHAMPTON Hants 294 (9 overs) 294 Glamorgan 184 (8 overs) 184 Extras (P 5.3, W 3, N 5) 13 Total (18.4 overs) 308	AT BRISTOL Gloucs 184 (8 overs) 184 Scotland 38 (3 overs) 38 Extras (P 5.3, W 3, N 5) 11 Total (11.3 overs) 222	AT THE OVAL Surrey 294 (9 overs) 294 Essex 184 (8 overs) 184 Extras (P 5.3, W 3, N 5) 13 Total (18.4 overs) 308

Jim Hews drinks to the legacy of a village cricket ground

Where white blows the broom on Somerset's green fields

Brompton Ralph (the place of the broom and the wolf) is a Somerset village in the Brendon foothills, between Wiveliscombe and Watchet. Harold Gimblett country. It has not, I think, much in the way of a history, though it has a tall church which would be regarded as remarkable anywhere but in Somerset, with a 14th century roof-screen restored by an American whose forebears came thither. It also has a pretty cricket ground.

Shares in brewery

It was the home for many years of Mrs Ivy May Bragg, who lived at Pishill Hill farm. She died, full of years, on 1983. Since she had been widowed some years earlier, she had become, increasingly, a recluse. She had had no children. Her only surviving relation seems to be Jim Hews, who lived far away in Coventry and whom she had never met. But she left all she had to Jim, much to his surprise. He promptly set off for her funeral, which was, he says, the nearest he had been to her all his life.

There were less than 10 present to say farewell to the old lady, but her legacy was substantial: quite a lot of cash, £25,000 worth of shares in Whitbread's brewery, the farmhouse with 110 acres, and the village cricket ground.

Now here the story takes a twist beyond that of the conventional long-lost relations romance. For Jim Hews is a cricketer, indeed a distinguished cricketer, formerly captain of Warwickshire second XI. He still plays, although he is 70, and umpires, and is chairman of Coventry and North Warwickshire CC, a familiar figure in Midlands cricket. Whether Mrs Bragg had the least idea of this seems very doubtful.

Jim felt he was a bit too old in life to take up farming, but was determined to hold on to his cricket ground. He inspected the property. The village side were persevering, but little more, and hardly anybody came to watch. What was indeed, he decided, was a pavilion, with a bar (he was doubtless conscious of his new responsibilities as a Whitbread's shareholder). He offered substantial help to this end, provided that the village did its share.

The village was slightly bewildered by the turn of events. The captain quipped: 'Will be woe to open the batting and the bowling?' But the members rallied round, helping to dig the foundations of the new pavilion, lay the water supply, and even deal with some of the electricity fittings. They are handy men, these from the remote Somerset villages.

For hundreds of years they have been accustomed to doing things for themselves. But they do sometimes need a shove from the outside to get them moving. One player, who is a joiner, built the bar himself.

Well, the pavilion and bar are complete, a credit to any village club, and today there will be a celebration match with Jim Hews bringing down a side from the Midlands. It is expected to include several famous names, possibly that of Kapil Dev. Will Jim play? If so, for whom? Will he insist on opening the batting and the bowling for both sides? Such is his enthusiasm, I should not be surprised.

Kapil Dev will, I expect, symbolise the wolf; and Hews with his pleasing interest in his new and unexpected acquisition will symbolise Somerset, where white blows the broom, which decorates the green fields.

Alan Gibson

Bomb scare causes England to have their first casualty

From David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, Whangarei

England's first day in New Zealand, where their seven-match tour begins on Saturday with the game against North Auckland here, was marred by a bomb threat. It delayed their internal flight from Auckland to Whangarei and contributed towards the first injury of the tour, though in somewhat bizarre circumstances.

Andy Simpson, the Sale hooker, was returning to the Air New Zealand Fokker which the team, and other passengers, had evacuated to allow the airport security officers to search for the alleged bomb. The departure had been hasty, with no time allowed for steps to be wheeled to the aircraft's door, and as Simpson scrambled back up after the all-clear, he received a helping push from Bannbridge, his England colleague.

Unfortunately, the hooker was not expecting it and he caught his head on the door frame, creating a further delay while four stitches were inserted in his scalp. There is some doubt whether it can be considered for selection for Saturday's game, since the wound has only four days to mend, though the accident did not prevent him from working for over an hour during the afternoon as England tried to run the stiffness out of legs cramped by the 29-hour flight from Otawaka, via Los Angeles and Papetee, in Tahiti, to Auckland.

It was not the most auspicious welcome to New Zealand, though the airports at Auckland and Whangarei were conspicuously free of demonstrators. It was particularly disappointing since Derek Morgan, the tour manager, would have been happy to respond to invitations to meet the protesters against New Zealand's support for South Africa who, it is anticipated, will make England's games focal points for anti-apartheid demonstrations.

Local opinion here suggests that the first two games, on Saturday and that against Poverty Bay at Gisborne next Wednesday, may pass without trouble. All England wish to achieve two respectable

Simpson: four stitches.

wins to lift morale for the difficult game with Auckland on May 25. They trained yesterday, and will do so again today, at Kersington Park here, when it is expected that the team to play North Auckland will be announced.

North Auckland, who lost heavily to an Auckland B team at the weekend, trained last night and their team will be known today. It will

be announced.

Three years ago Liverpool Football Club (St Michael's, not Anfield), the oldest Rugby Union club in the British Isles, celebrated its 125th birthday. Tomorrow, at their annual general meeting, the committee will seek the club's approval to explore new avenues of development.

Plagued by vandalism at St Michael's, Liverpool have long known that a move to a more agreeable location would help the club to prosper, and a development committee under the chairmanship of David Boulton, their president, have been sifting the evidence.

The first plan was to move to a pleasant site in Huyton, near Knowsley, which would be more

accessible to visiting clubs, but even the considerable sum that the club could raise through sale of their present land, with certain grants may still be inadequate for this to take place.

Since then Liverpool have been approaching both St Helens and Waterloo to discuss the possibility of amalgamation: a main attraction behind the move to St Helens would be the proximity of Cowley and West Park Schools to provide the feed of talent that the club lacks.

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CJES

69 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7BS
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex 887374 Fax 01-633 9216

CJES Interesting and varied senior appointment requiring administrative ability and social skills.
P.A. TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

HammerSmith £9,500 - £11,500
U.K. HEAD OFFICE OF A LEADING INTERNATIONAL GROUP
On behalf of our clients, who are a "household name" in the international business world, we are seeking a highly motivated and experienced P.A. to the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of administrative duties, including correspondence, travel arrangements, and general office management. The position offers a challenging and varied role with a leading international group. Applications should be sent to the Managing Director, 69 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7BS. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex 887374 Fax 01-633 9216.

The Personal Touch £11,500 ++
Would you like to work in a friendly atmosphere where you can use your secretarial skills to the full? We are looking for a P.A. to a senior manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of administrative duties, including correspondence, travel arrangements, and general office management. The position offers a challenging and varied role with a leading international group. Applications should be sent to the Managing Director, 69 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7BS. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex 887374 Fax 01-633 9216.

P.R. Start-Up £9,500
The M.D. of a small P.R. consultancy is looking for a P.A. to assist with the day-to-day running of the business. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of administrative duties, including correspondence, travel arrangements, and general office management. The position offers a challenging and varied role with a leading international group. Applications should be sent to the Managing Director, 69 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7BS. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex 887374 Fax 01-633 9216.

PA to Vice President £11,500
The Vice President of a large international company is looking for a P.A. to assist with the day-to-day running of the business. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of administrative duties, including correspondence, travel arrangements, and general office management. The position offers a challenging and varied role with a leading international group. Applications should be sent to the Managing Director, 69 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7BS. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex 887374 Fax 01-633 9216.

CJA

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex 887374 Fax 01-633 9216

Challenging career opportunity within international finance for individual with recent general banking experience
BILINGUAL PA/SECRETARY - GERMAN/ENGLISH

CITY TO £12,500 NEG PLUS EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGE
CAPITAL MARKETS SUBSIDIARY OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BANK
Our client, a major force in international finance, seeks a PA/Secretary to work for a joint Managing Director responsible for Administration/Personnel. Candidates should have excellent secretarial skills, be able to deal effectively with travel arrangements and administrative duties and work on their own initiative on a number of interesting and varied projects. Applications in strict confidence under reference BS16706/TT to:

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING LIMITED, 35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT £10,000 MAY DAY £10,000
Charming Director of small but exciting W.I. company seeks a top P.A. with fluent French. Plenty of international liaison and a variety of administrative duties. An excellent opportunity to develop a career in the oil industry as eventually you could move away from the usual secretarial test. Speeds 100/60. If you are self-motivated, career minded and have skills 100/60 then call us now!

For further details call: 01-434 2402

Shorthand Secretary

New business venture
1 year contract; City;
Salary in excess of £10,000

This is an opportunity for a secretary, probably in their late twenties, with at least 5 years' shorthand experience to play a key role in the small new business team developing our exciting venture in the field of photovoltaics. You will be responsible to the Business Manager for the efficient running of the office. In addition to excellent shorthand and typing skills and at least 5 'O' levels including English Language, you must be bright, enthusiastic and well-motivated, with the necessary initiative to deal with a significant volume of overseas calls. Word processing experience, ideally using a DecMate II, is essential. The appointment is for a fixed term of one year. Hours 8.30-5.30pm based at our Moorgate Head Office. Please write or telephone for an application form, quoting ref. A.225, to:

Louise Avey, Personnel Officer,
The British Petroleum Company PLC,
Britannic House, Moor Lane, London EC2Y 9BU.
Tel: 01-920 7165.

BP is an equal opportunity employer.

BP Photovoltaics

SECRETARY for Head of PR Central London £7,000 package
Habitat, one of the greatest success stories in modern retailing, needs an enthusiastic and committed secretary to support our dynamic Head of PR.

We seek someone with fast, accurate typing, plenty of initiative, a sharp eye for detail, and a natural flair for organisation. Written, verbal and 'phone' skills should be first-class, with shorthand a further plus. Your varied workload will include correspondence, press releases, administration, and generally keeping a busy and fast-moving function running smoothly! Salary package includes attractive benefits including Christmas bonus, and generous discounts on company products.

Apply now by calling the Personnel Department on Wallingford (0491) 35000, or write enclosing full details to: Habitat Designs Limited, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9EU.

craftscouncil

PA/SECRETARY
The Crafts Council promotes artist craftspeople, helps them to maintain and improve their standards, sell their work and become better known to the public. Its Gallery/Resources Centre and administrative offices are close to Piccadilly Circus.

The Council now requires a first class PA/SECRETARY. The postholder will work mainly for the Assistant Director (Administration & Finance) but will also carry out some work for other officers in the Section. Previously this position has proved a valuable asset in obtaining posts within the general field of arts administration. A good standard of education is required, several years general secretarial experience, and shorthand/typing speeds of 100/50 wpm. A willingness to do audio work would be helpful and can work under pressure with a busy team. PLEASE RING SARAH CRAFTS COUNCIL, 5 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AT. Tel: 01-830 4811. Closing date for receipt of applications: 31st May 1985.

Ask Alfred Marks.

BI Lingual executive PA £13,000
We have been asked on behalf of an established advertising company to recruit a PA with proven experience as an executive. The successful candidate will be fluent in German and French both written and spoken and must be able to travel to Europe frequently, acting on occasion for the Director.

This position requires dedication together with a high degree of presentation, coupled with secretarial skills. Please contact Miranda Dawson for further details on 01-631 5262 (above the Jazz Club) London W1 (All applications are treated in confidence)

ALFRED MARKS Recruitment Consultants

ADMINISTRATOR FOR TRAINING ORGANISATION
Are you the person to handle the administration of the courses we run abroad? A large part of your time would be spent testing candidates on the phone and discussing courses with our clients. You will be between 25 and 45 with knowledge of a European language. Proven admin experience and fast accurate typing. If you have a good record in planning and co-ordination and can work under pressure with a busy team. PLEASE RING SARAH BRAINBRIDGE

01-937 3233
THE CANNING SCHOOL
Salary £9,000 negotiable generous holiday. Staff pension scheme.

SECRETARY/PA to Managing Director
Mature Secretary PA capable of working under pressure. At least 6 years secretarial experience. Administrative capability, shorthand, audio and word processor experience essential. Able to use own initiative when M.D. away. Ideal position for someone with commitment to join small team in growing company. Top salary for the right person. Replies in writing with C.V. marked private and confidential to:

Greville J. Mitchell
Rothschilds Securities (UK) Ltd.,
19/20 Bolton Street,
London W1Y 7PA

SECRETARY - PARK LANE
for Head of Client Sales Pressure environment. 100/60. WP advantage.

Apply with full CV to Miss C Furneaux, Anglia Television Ltd, Brook House, 113 Park Lane, London, W1Y 4DX. (No telephone calls please).

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO £9,500
A very confidential position to the SENIOR DIRECTOR of an Int. textile Co. based H.O. West End. Excellent shorthand (100 wpm) and typing (80 wpm) skills are required. Equally to be confident, efficient, well organized, able to liaise with sales, lawyers and property negotiators, as these are some of the many activities required for this very important position. For further details please call Roy Stoddart, 01-734 9058.

STODDART ASSOCIATES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARY / RECEPTIONIST
A Secretary / Receptionist is required for a small advertising agency with pleasant offices off Oxford Street. Must be accurate typist and used to audio work. Shorthand helpful but not essential. Small modern office with excellent atmosphere, good salary. Holiday arrangements flexible. 01-495 6591. No agencies.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO £9,500
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High Flying PA/Secretary?
A unique opportunity in Office Automation
£12,000 London based

Centre-file, one of the leading Computer Service Companies in the UK, is now firmly established in the market place for office automation products. We provide a range of CA services to a variety of customers and are in the process of extending our own use of technology in the office. Presently working with an Equipment Supplier installing systems or having worked in a similar project to Centre-file you will possess:
* Fluency and the desire to progress beyond pure secretarial duties.
* The personality necessary to assist people of varying levels of ability to come to terms with the use of modern technology in the office.

Centre-file Limited
A member of the National Westminster Bank Group

Earning in Excess of £10,000 per annum?
If you are not, and you have at least 5 years' W.P. experience - you should be! If you can use one of the major systems (Wang, IBM, Digital, Plan, etc.) - even better! We are looking for temporary work in Central London, call Thames straight away. Apart from matching exactly your excellent skills with our excellent assignments, we'll give you holiday pay and, if you like, we'll put you on the right track for a superb permanent job! What more could you ask? To find out ring Leslie Barker on 01-434 2402.

Thames Recruitment Consultants - a professional service with a personal touch

A FLAIR FOR FASHION £7,700
A top name in the world of elegant classic fashion seeks a secretary to a Director. Help organize trade fairs and exhibitions. 100/50 skills and some word processor experience needed.

JEWEL IN THE CROWN £8,500
A top manufacturing company of fashionable jewellery seeks a secretary/administrator. This position holds a minimal secretarial content. Ideally you should have some import, export or shipping experience in order to control their interests abroad. 100/50 skills needed.

ADVERTISING, NO SHORTHAND £8,000
Close to Covent Garden, join this top advertising agency as secretary to their young account team. Set up client presentations and get involved. If you enjoy a young informal atmosphere this is for you. 60 wpm typing ability needed.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
18 Grosvenor Street London W1 Telephone 01-499 8070
23 College Hill London EC4 Telephone 01-236 3712

Marketing £9,000 +
Working at Board level for the director of a new Business Development unit will give you the opportunity to use your initiative to the full. This is a demanding position which would suit a bright young secretary who enjoys dealing with client queries, researching and maintaining information, as well as keeping track of a dynamic boss who is constantly out and about. Age: 23-30. Skills: 100/60.

A Flair for Design £7,500
The clients of this young, go-ahead design company are leading household names. As you would expect the offices are modern and bright and there's even music while you work! There is a fair amount of typing and a large part of your job involves dealing with clients and giving admin back-up to a team of designers. Age: 19-23. Skills: 60/50.

HAZELL STATION ASSOCIATES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
8 Golden Square, London W1 01-439 6021

TEA AT THE RITZ!
We are a small, busy shipping company in the heart of Mayfair and we are looking for a bright, outgoing secretary to help run our office.

They will need a good educational background and secretarial skills with particular emphasis on fast, neat typing (tele/WP) and pleasant phone manner. The duties, however, will be interesting and varied and she will be working in a very friendly but professional atmosphere.

Initiative, confidence and a cheerful disposition would be advantageous as well as the ability to work under pressure. We will be happy to train the chosen candidate if necessary. Salary circa £7-8,000 pa.

Please apply with full CV to: Claire-Marie North Venture Shipping Agencies Ltd
26 Dover Street, London W1X 3PA

Assistant to the Director of International Charity
This is a position of unusual interest and variety working with the Director of Help the Aged. As the Chief Executive of the charity, the Director leads what is a complex organization working to further the cause of the needy elderly. Candidates will probably be aged between 25 and 35, and be experienced P.A.s. Sound secretarial skills are required along with discretion, resourcefulness, adaptability and the personality and poise to deal with senior executives and individuals at all levels. The job involves a high degree of personal input and responsibility, particularly in the Director's absence.

Salary will be negotiable, on an incremental scale £8,788 to £10,537, dependent on relevant experience. Please write with full CV and daytime phone number to Chris Givins, Personnel Officer, Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

Thinking of Temporary Work?
- Manpower

Just the job for job satisfaction

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WEST END JEWELLERS
require typist to carry out general office duties. Accurate typing is essential and switchboard experience is preferred. Candidates must be well presented and must have an outgoing personality. Salary £8,000 A.A.E.

MANPOWER Tel: 01-636 9598

INVESTMENT RESEARCH/ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT
Salary £12,000 to £18,000 upwards
Swiss UK representation office in quiet S.W. London location has vacancy for a Research and Administration Assistant to monitor with an acute and inquisitive mind an international range of investments (equity, bonds, fund, etc). The use of a personal computer with Lotus and/or other accounting and situation models is involved.

Applicants (male/female) will preferably be graduates, must at least have "A" level mathematics and experience of 2/3 years in investment markets with an institution or broker. Please send full c.v. in confidence to: Box 0824 W. The Times

TEMPORARIES
Professional WP Operators and Secretaries with WP skills

The temporary division of Office Systems Management Centre has urgent and immediate demand for high calibre people to undertake assignments throughout London. Our contract team enjoy guaranteed long term work, highest rates of pay, continuous training on all the latest systems and the opportunity to progress into support application, programming and in-company consultancy training which in turn offers extremely attractive pay and benefits plus holiday pay facilities.

We work with some of the largest and most innovative companies in the London region and surrounding areas. We also offer very meaningful opportunities to develop your skills through Free Cross Training and most important of all excellent earning potential.

We have a wide selection of vacancies offering excellent opportunities and salaries in industries as diverse as publishing, television, marketing and professional business.

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115 Shaftsbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8AD
The Office Systems Division of the Alfred Marks Group

CAREER POSITION FOR A YOUNG PA 22/23
Fine Art Printers & Publishers
Salary Negotiable

The irresistible combination of involvement in a creative sphere, a prestigious secretarial role is offered by this renowned Printing/Publishing organization.

The key to success in this position is flexibility - your job will be many-faceted, at times demanding, but always rewarding, as the ability to adjust to the different levels of your duties will be important. Duties will range from liaising with Artists, regarding their drawings on their work or any other projects in hand, to liaising with the creative clients of your Director, and acting in the place of an Account Executive. You'll get involved with producing master copies for the printing of Fine Art Prints and Catalogues by the main company, with Copyrights and deal directly with other Publishing companies.

Your boss is an extremely busy man and actually needs you to be able to arrange social functions for him, such as Lunches etc. When he's out you'll be in charge of the office, and then, as at all other times, he'll delegate as much responsibility as you are prepared to take on.

Good grammar, good education and a flair for administration will be considered just as essential as your secretarial skills, although minimum 5 years typing skills are required, plus just a knowledge of shorthand, most of the work being done on audio. So if you feel you have the potential to handle this position and would appreciate the opportunity to offer:

—LESLIE BARKER—
01-253 7654
for further details.

Personal Assistant to the District Treasurer
Salary approx £7300-£9200 Inc.
We are looking for an experienced and enthusiastic person with secretarial skills and a flair for office organisation to assist the Treasurer and his senior staff.

The ability to use Word Processing facilities is essential. (Olivetti ETS 2010 system). Shorthand/typing experience is desirable. Initially based in temporary accommodation at Putney Hospital, SW15, responsibilities will extend to the site at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, where the Treasurer's Department will be relocated at the end of 1985.

Application form from: District Personnel Department, District Offices, Queen Mary's Hospital, on 01-789 7971, Ext. 3110. Closing Date: 31st May 1985.

FRENCH CRYSTAL W.1 £10,500
A unique secretary/p.a. needed for a one-off job in this small, exclusive company. You'll need to be smart, efficient, educated to 'A' level standard and have skills of 90/60. Age 20-28.

ADVERTISING/P.R. £11,000
A superb opportunity for an experienced secretary to work for an Account Executive in this small but extremely successful city agency. Lovely new office. Age 21-28.

For these and many other jobs up to £11,500 please call us right away!

TM International Ltd
Secretarial Recruitment
50 Hans Crescent SW1

Individual career advice for secretaries and personal assistants

TEMPORARIES CONTROLLER
An exciting opportunity exists to join one of the country's leading recruitment consultants based in a new office opening shortly in SW1. Energy, enthusiasm and positive attitude essential. Sales orientated and interested in a career are also pre-requisites. If you think you are capable of the challenge I am offering telephone me and tell me why.

Laura Jones
01-486 7620

SECRETARY / RECEPTIONIST
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PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO £9,500
A very confidential position to the SENIOR DIRECTOR of an Int. textile Co. based H.O. West End. Excellent shorthand (100 wpm) and typing (80 wpm) skills are required. Equally to be confident, efficient, well organized, able to liaise with sales, lawyers and property negotiators, as these are some of the many activities required for this very important position. For further details please call Roy Stoddart, 01-734 9058.

STODDART ASSOCIATES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SUPER SECRETARIES

01-837 0668

CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN P.R. AND JOURNALISM
Secretary/PA to Financial Controller

The company is a major force in the quality sector of the retail industry, with major brands like L.L. Bean and Gap. An exciting career opportunity exists for a Secretary/PA to the Financial Controller. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Financial Controller's office, including the preparation of accounts, budgets, and financial statements. The successful candidate will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Financial Controller's office, including the preparation of accounts, budgets, and financial statements.

01-499 3551 or 3531 Recruitment Consultants

RECEPTION + SALARY

C. 27,250 + benefits

Would you enjoy meeting people and running a busy reception area in a fast-paced environment? We need someone to promote our image in the front line of our client contact. A welcoming and efficient telephone receptionist is essential to our success. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the reception area, including the preparation of accounts, budgets, and financial statements.

01-499 3551 or 3531 Recruitment Consultants

Micro Marketing
£8,000 + bonus

Our clients provide computer services. Young, dynamic and expanding rapidly, they now require a confident and capable PA to Managing Director. This is a job of great variety and responsibility, handling market surveys, minutes, contracts and liaison with clients/suppliers etc. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Managing Director's office, including the preparation of accounts, budgets, and financial statements.

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ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

Secretary/PA to Financial Controller

The Financial Controller of the Royal Society of Arts requires a secretary to work in the Society's offices at John Adam St, Charing Cross. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Financial Controller's office, including the preparation of accounts, budgets, and financial statements.

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